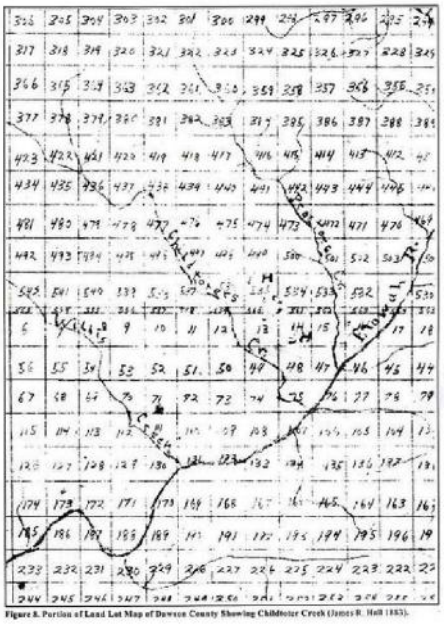
Chapter One

As white men colonized the northern areas of the North American continent they moved inland and pushed the Cherokee further south and west onto land that belonged to the Creek. At that time much of North Georgia was Creek land. The Creek and Cherokee fought a battle and the Creek lost and retreated to a line roughly south of the Etowah River.

It is not known when the Cherokee Indians began occupying the upper Etowah River valley, but we do know the name of one family that lived in and around Russell Creek, that was known earlier as Child Toters Creek. In several deeds dated before 1869[1] the name

Map showing Cherokee and Creek Territories



Map shows the different creeks as they were at that time.

Childtoter is used, and it is clearly the same as Russell Creek. There are two records showing that Childtoter (Child Toater) who was a Cherokee lived in Big Savannah[2] at the Tensewattee community. Child Toater is documented in the census of Cherokee Indians East of the Mississippi River in 1835, with eleven people. All eleven are listed as full-blood Cherokee.

According to the 1835 Cherokee Census records of the portion of Lumpkin County, Georgia, that later became Dawson County, there were 54 Indian families, 6 intermarried families and 43 slaves. Names like these were full-blood Cherokees: Young Turkey, Snip, Black Bird, Sconti, Paunch Lifter, Beaver Toter and many more. There were half-blood Cherokees like John Proctor, Sr., John Proctor, Jr., Jesse Cochran, Moses Downing and others. These were white men who intermarried with Indian women giving the men Cherokee citizenship: Lewis Ralston, David Ledbetter, Silas Palmer and others.

In 1836 federal agents visited the farms of Cherokees in Cherokee territory to record and assign a value to the improvements made by each individual. These values were to be used later for reimbursement and compensation for the Cherokee properties. Agents Hutchins, Shaw and Kellogg evaluated Child Toater's farm on December 5, 1836[3].

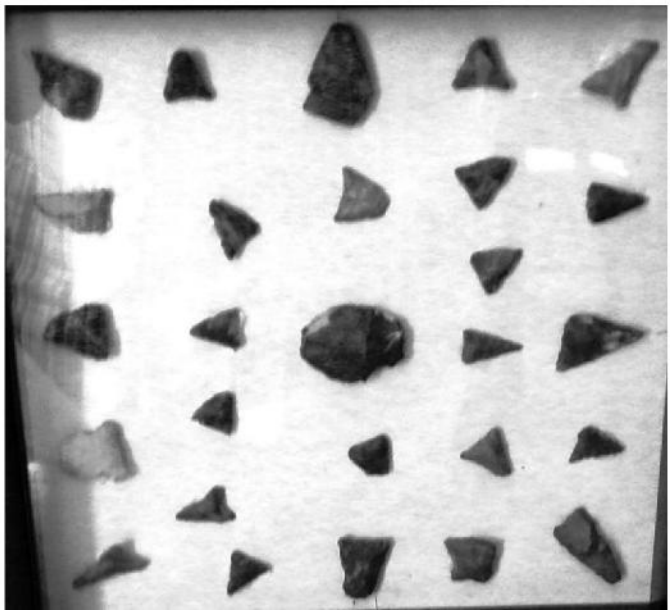
In early years, several white men married mixed-blood and full-blood Cherokee women, built houses and cleared farm land in the Cherokee Nation. We know that some of these farms were evaluated the same as the Indian improvements.

Once settled by the White Man and Cherokee Indians, the river valleys were dotted with farms, orchards and numerous modern log structures, as well as several businesses. Native Americans thrived in the area because artifacts and mounds that pre-date the Cherokees were located where communities were built later.

The families settled near the Etowah River and Amicalola River, the two main rivers in what later became Dawson County.

Etowah River rising northwest of Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, flows south and west to the lower part of the Cherokee Nation through Dawson, Cherokee, Bartow and Floyd counties. At Rome it joins the Oostanaula to form the Coosa River that flows into Alabama. Near the Etowah River, there were many families living in what would later be called Big Savannah in Dawson County.

The Etowah River with its rich bottomland was one of the first areas settled by full and mixed-blood people. A few of the first white settlers were the Stowers, Russell, McClure, Gober, Dougherty, and Palmour families.



Artifacts from the Dawson County Historical & Genealogical Society Archives. The items were donated by Larry Hamby and were found in Dawson County near the Chestatee River.

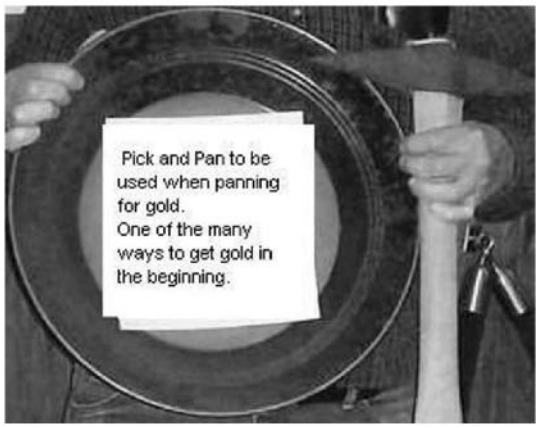
Mr. Benjamin Parks
The first to discover gold

Four minor creeks in the Big Savannah Valley were Russell Creek, Palmer Creek, Procter Creek, and Tinsawattee Creek, later changed to Mill Creek.

Amicalola River begins in southeast Gilmer County, flows through Dawson County and joins the Etowah at Breadtown, a Cherokee settlement. Amicalola Village in 1834 was a small Cherokee community of several families along the Amicalola River. Lake Sconti built by the Tate family and located in Dawson and Pickens County, Georgia, was named for the Cherokee, Sconti, who lived above Breadtown. Amicalola River is best known for the falls at the upper part of the river. The area was later surrounded by Amicalola Falls State Park on Highway 52. The park covers about 1050 acres and has become a popular place for tourists. A trail leads from the falls to Springer Mountain, the beginning of the 2150-mile Appalachian Trail that runs from Georgia to Maine.

There are many stories of the first discovery of gold in Georgia and most credit resident Benjamin Parks with the first discovery. Mr. Parks claimed he found a nugget of gold on the ground at Licklog, just east of Chestatee River, in what was then the Cherokee Indian Nation later to become Lumpkin County, Georgia. In an article published in *The Atlanta Constitution* in 1894 Mr. Parks stated:

"The gold, it was just an accident that I came across it. I was deer hunting one day when I kicked up something that caught my eye. I examined it and decided that it was gold. The place belonged to Rev. O'Barr, who, though a preacher, was a hard man. I went to him and told him that I thought I could find gold on his place, if he would give me a lease on it. He laughed, as though he did not believe me, and consented. So a lease was written out, and consideration of which was that I gave him one-fourth of the gold mined. I went over to the spot with a pan, and turning over some earth, it looked like the yellow of an egg. It was more than my eyes could believe."



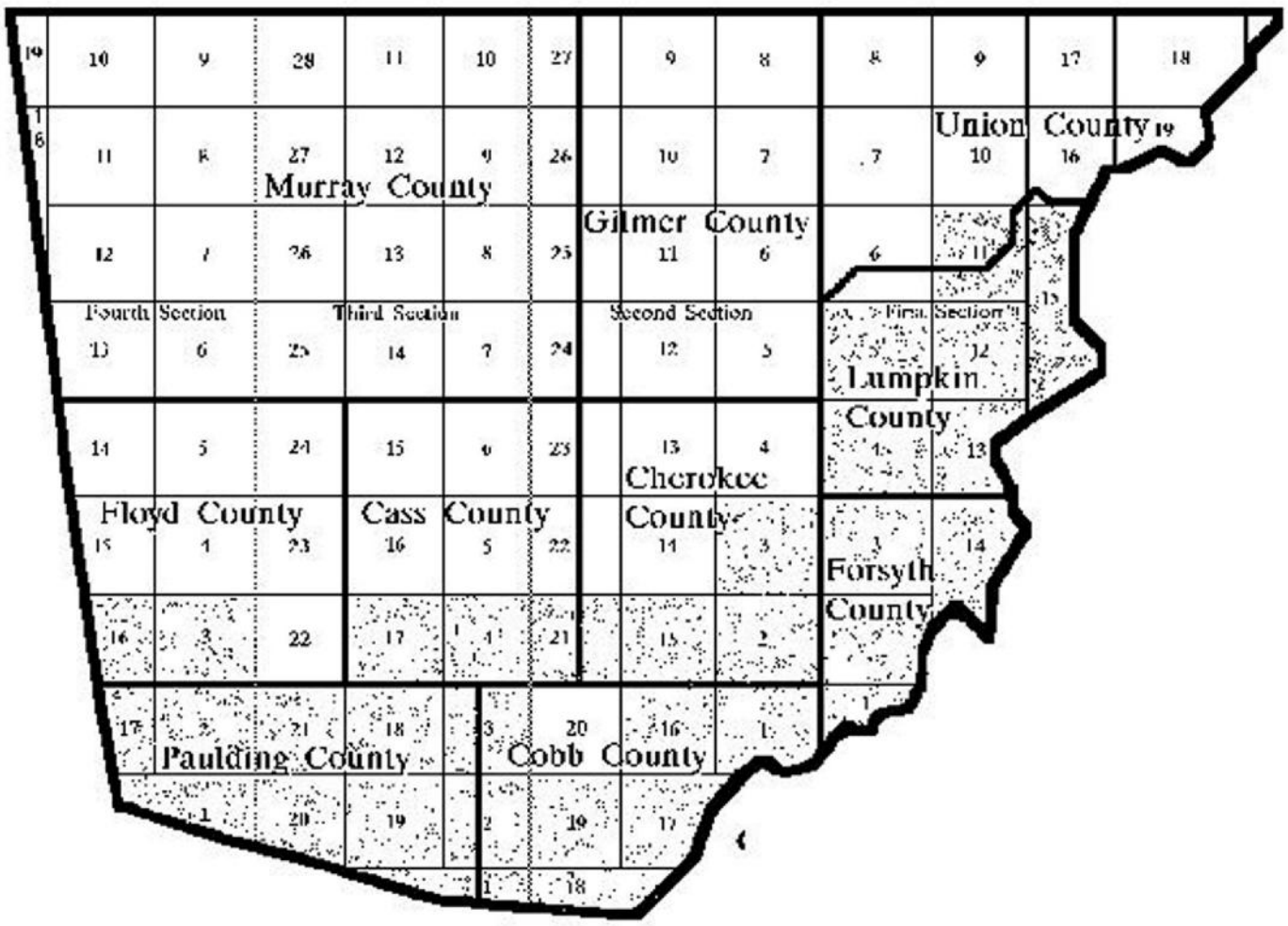
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina acquired the mineral rights of the land where Mr. Parks found the nugget. The Calhoun Mine became one of the first and biggest in the area. This mine was located about three miles south of what later became Dahlonega on the bank of the Chestatee River. The word spread of Mr. Park's discovery, and within a short time thousands of people arrived in Georgia hoping to get rich. They settled near Auraria six miles southeast of present-day Dahlonega. In the beginning the town was called Knucklesville because Nathaniel Nuckolls opened a tavern there as prospectors flooded the area. Later named Auraria, it soon became a town of taverns, banks, doctors, lawyers and miners located near John C. Calhoun's mine. Numerous gold mines were illegally developed in the area with miners entering illegally into the Cherokee Nation lands causing conflict with the Cherokees. The miners applied political pressure against the Cherokees because they wanted the gold that had been found. Several gold mines were granted charters as companies by the State of Georgia. Many individual miners were unable to make a living and began to drift away from the gold fields of Northeast Georgia. Throughout the 1830s and 1840s the area that was to become Dawson County was in the midst of the first gold rush in America. In 1849, word came of the major gold find at Sutter's Mill in California. Several men from the North Georgia area left for California hoping to get rich.

By 1830 the Cherokee Nation consisted of northwest Georgia plus adjoining areas in Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina. Cherokee Indians remained on their land in Georgia, but on December 21, 1830, the General Assembly enacted legislation claiming all the territory within the boundaries of Georgia. The act provided for surveying the Cherokee lands in Georgia and dividing them into sections, districts and land lots and authorizing a lottery to distribute the land. On December 26, 1831, the legislature claimed all land in Georgia that lay west of the Chattahoochee River and north of Carroll County as "Cherokee County" and provided for its organization. On December 3, 1832, the legislature added areas of Habersham and Hall counties to Cherokee County, then divided the entire area into nine new counties: Cass (later renamed Bartow), Cobb, Floyd, Forsyth, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Murray, Paulding and Union. In addition, they reconstituted a much smaller Cherokee County. The surveyors were instructed to identify Cherokee houses, buildings, cleared land, fruit trees and improvements such as fish traps, mills, stores and ferries. The information regarding these is housed in the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Many white settlers and land speculators simply desired the land. Some claimed the Cherokee presence was a threat to peace and security. Some states, like Georgia in 1830, passed a law which prohibited whites from living on Native American territory after March 31, 1831, without a license from the state. This law was written to justify the earlier removal by the military of the white missionaries who were helping the Native Americans resist removal.

The Gold Lottery of 1832 was the seventh lottery in the Georgia Land Lottery, a lottery system used by the State of Georgia between the years 1805 and 1832 to distribute land. It was authorized by the Georgia General Assembly by an act of December 24, 1831, a few years after the start of the Georgia Gold Rush. The act specified that approximately one third of the 160-acre (0.65 km^2) land districts to be distributed by lottery under the act of December 21, 1830, (the sixth land lottery), be designated as gold districts of 40 acres (160,000 m^2) each and to be distributed in a separate lottery. The drawings for the Gold Lottery of 1832 occurred between October 22, 1832, and May 1, 1833, and applied to land that had been owned by the Cherokee Indians.



Land Lot Map of 1832

Those successful in the lottery had to pay a grant fee of $10.00 per lot. Those eligible were: bachelors over the age of 18 who were three-year residents of Georgia and citizens of the United States; widows who were three-year residents of Georgia; families of orphans who were three-year residents of Georgia and citizens of the United States; and married men or male heads of family who were three-year residents of Georgia and citizens of the United States. Residency requirements were waived for officers in the United States Army or Navy. Those excluded were: anyone who was successful in any previous land lottery who had taken a grant of a land lot; anyone who had mined, or caused to be mined, gold, silver, or other metal in the Cherokee territory since June 1, 1830; any person who had taken up residence in

the Cherokee territory; anyone who had been convicted of a felony in any court in Georgia; and anyone who was a member of "a horde of Thieves known as the Pony Club."

Trail of Tears Road Sign

The Indian Removal Act made the relocation voluntary. It was often abused by government officials. The best-known example is the New Echota Treaty. The United States would pay the Cherokee Nation five million dollars. The treaty originally had a clause allowing that Cherokees wanting to remain could become citizens and be granted a small amount of land, but that was later stricken by President Jackson before he sent the treaty to the Senate for ratification. It was negotiated and signed by a small fraction of members, not the leadership of the Cherokee Nation, on December 29, 1835. An agreement signed under the provisions of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 exchanged Native American land in the East for lands west of the Mississippi River. This treaty was never accepted by the elected leadership or a majority of the Cherokee people. During 1838, those Native Americans who had not voluntarily moved west were forcibly removed to Oklahoma. The new president, Martin Van Buren, ordered Major General Winfield Scott into North Georgia with five regiments of regulars and 4,000 militia and volunteers and the “Trail of Tears” was underway.

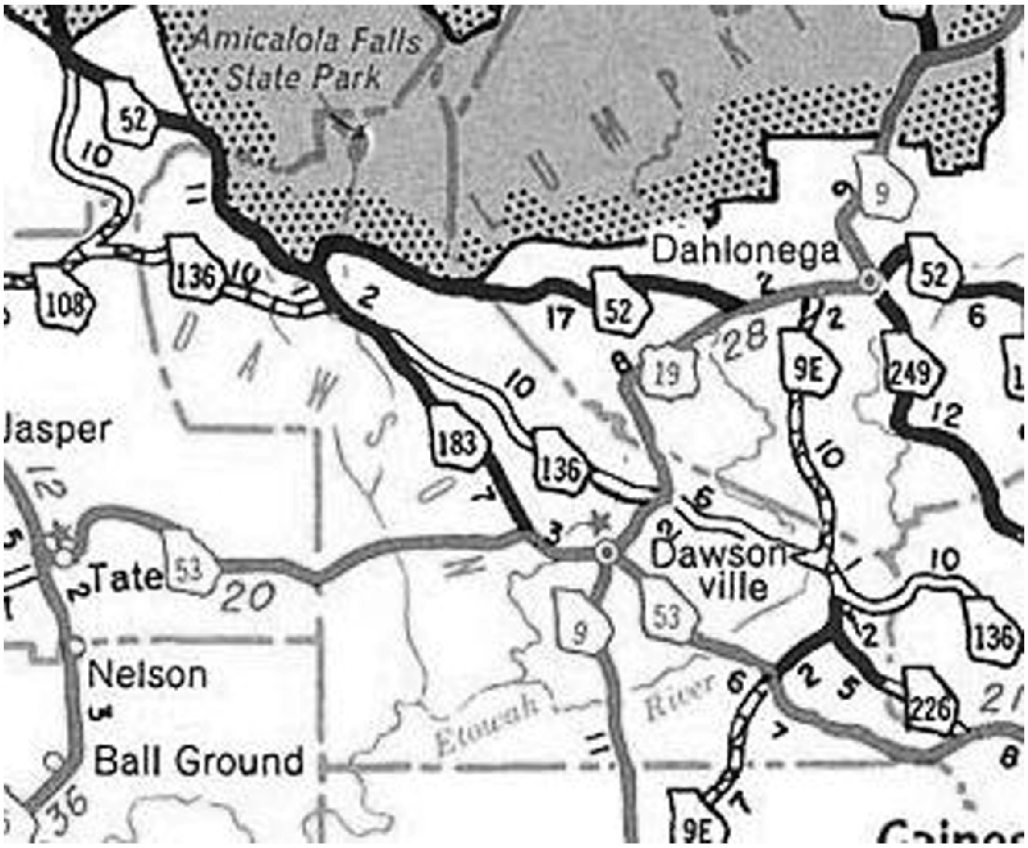
After the removal of the Native Americans, white settlers arrived with their families, some carrying their goods in covered wagons.

Footnotes

Lumpkin County Deed Book L
Georgia Archives Records Group 75, Valuation #139
Georgia Archives, Records Group 75, Valuation 157, page 140

Chapter Two

Dawson County was created by a legislative act December 3, 1857, primarily out of Lumpkin County and smaller parts of Gilmer and Pickens counties. A bill for the formation of Dawson County was introduced at the General Assembly of the State of Georgia by Senator John B. Graham and passed in Milledgeville at sessions in November and December 1857. No official reason was given for the need of a new county but since business was conducted in Dahlonega and Ellijay for the citizens of Lumpkin and Gilmer Counties, the people may have found it inconvenient to do business at either town and a new county would have made it easier for them to fulfill their duties.



Map that shows Dawson County with rivers and roads as they are today.

In her columns published in the *Dawson County Advertiser* during November, 1974, Rebekah Wilson listed the sections of the bill to form the county:

Section I. Be it enacted that from and immediately after the first day of February next, a new county shall be and the same is hereby laid out from the counties of Lumpkin and Gilmer, to be included within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning on the west bank of the Chestatee River at number four hundred, north half of the thirteenth district and first section, thence along the top of the mountains and divide the waters of Amicalola and Cartakay Rivers, to the Pickens line, thence south and with said line to the north-east and west line of the fourth district of the second section, thence east along said line to Lumpkin county line, thence, south with said line to west corner of the Forsyth line, thence east with said line to the Chestatee River, thence up said river to the beginning point.

Section II. And be it further enacted, that the new county described in the first section of this act shall be called and known by the name of Dawson, and shall be attached to the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, to the sixth Congressional district, and to the brigade and division to which the said territory now belongs.

Section III. And be it further enacted, that the persons included within said new county entitled to vote shall, on the first Monday in March next, elect five Justices of the Inferior Court, an Ordinary, a clerk of the Superior Court, Clerk of the Inferior Court, a Sheriff, a Coroner, a Tax Collector, and Receiver of the Tax Returns, a County Surveyor and County Treasurer for said county, and that said election for officers shall be held at the several places where the Justices' Courts are now held, within the limits of said new county; that the Justices of the Inferior Court shall hold their offices until the first Monday in January, 1860; that the Receiver of Tax Returns and Tax Collector shall hold their offices until the first Monday in January, 1859; the Sheriff, Coroner, County Surveyor, and Clerks of the Superior and Inferior courts shall hold their offices until the first Monday in January, 1860, and until their successors are respectively elected and qualified; and the Governor, on the same being certified to him, shall commission the persons returned as elected at such elections, and said Justices of the Inferior Court, after they shall have been commissioned, shall proceed, as soon as possible, to lay off said county into militia districts and to advertise for the election of two Justices of the Peace in each district in which no Justice now in commission may reside, and in case one Justice in commission shall reside in any one of said districts then one other shall be elected for said district and the Governor, on being duly certified of the election of such Justices, shall commission them according to law, and all officers now in commission within the limits of said new county shall hold their commissions and exercise the duties of their several offices within said new county, for the terms respectively for which they were elected, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified.

Section IV. And be it further enacted, that the Justices of the Inferior Court of the county, after they have been commissioned and qualified, shall have full power and authority to select and locate a site for the public buildings of said county, and said Justices or a majority of them, are hereby authorized and invested with full power to purchase a tract of land for the location of the county site, to divide the same into lots and sell each lot at public sale to the highest bidder, for the benefit of said county, and to make such other arrangements or contracts concerning the county site and the location of the public building, as they may think proper.

Section V. And be it further enacted, that so soon as the Justices of the Inferior Court for said county shall have laid off said militia districts, and places of holding Justices' Courts in said districts, respectively, be and each of them is hereby established an election precinct.

Section VI. And be it further enacted, that all means process, execution and other final process in the hands of the Sheriff, Coroner and Constables of the counties of which the new county may be formed, and which properly belongs to said new county, and which may have been levied or in part executed, and such proceeding therein not finally disposed of at the time when the officers of said new county shall receive their commission, shall be delivered over to the corresponding officers of said new county, and such officers are hereby authorized and required to proceed with the same in the same manner as if such means process, execution or other final had been originally in their hands, provided that in all cases publication of the time and places of sale or other like proceedings in the new county, shall be made for the time now prescribed by law, and all papers appertaining to all or any suits or prosecutions pending in the counties out of which said new county is formed when the defendant resides in said new county, shall be transferred to the proper officers of said new county and there tried and disposed of.

Section VII. Be it further enacted, that the Superior Courts of said new county shall be held on the third Monday in March and September in each year and the Inferior Courts on the first Monday in June and December.

Section VIII. And be it further enacted, that the Superintendents of elections in said new county shall meet at the Rock Pile and at the house of Mr. Gibson Edwards, in the 1022 district in said new county, on the next day after the election, for the purpose of consolidating said election returns.

Section IX. And be it further enacted, that all civil and military officers elected in said new county may take the usual oath of office before any person qualified by law to administer an oath.

Section X. And be it further enacted, that whereas there is now an outstanding debt, supposed to be against said county of Lumpkin, and for the better securing the amount and payment of such debt that the Inferior Courts of said old and new counties and they are hereby authorized and required to meet at such time and place after the organizing said new county, and all things done by them shall be lawful.

Section XI. And be it further enacted, that the same laws, as far as related to the poor school system, that governs the county of Lumpkin, be and they are hereby extended to the county of Dawson.

Section XII (Repeals conflicting laws).

Approved December 3rd, 1857

The General Assembly of the State of Georgia meeting in Milledgeville during November and December, 1857, passed the following laws concerning Dawson County:

An Act to change the Line between the counties of Pickens and Dawson

25. Section I. Be it enacted, That the line between the Counties of Pickens and Dawson be so changed as to include lots of land, Nos. 477, 478 and 479, belonging to Daniel P. Monroe now in the county of Pickens, in the county of Dawson.

26. Sec. II (Repeals conflicting laws.) Assented to December 22nd, 1857

An Act to regulate certain bonds therein mentioned

Section I. Be it enacted, That from and after the passage of this Act, the Sheriff's bonds of the counties of Lumpkin and Dawson shall be for seven thousand dollars, with two or more good and approved securities; also the bonds of the Clerks of the Superior Courts of said counties shall be four thousand dollars; and the bonds of the Ordinaries shall be for four thousand dollars; and the bonds of the Clerks of the Inferior Courts of said counties shall be for three thousand dollars; and also the bonds of the Coroners of said counties shall be for two thousand dollars; the bonds of the Treasurers in said counties shall be for six thousand dollars; all the above bonds shall be required to have two or more good and sufficient securities, to be adjudged of by the Justices of the Interior Courts of said counties of Lumpkin and Dawson.

Sec. II (Repeals conflicting laws.)

Assented to December 22, 1857.

Georgia's 119th county was named for Judge William C. Dawson, a compiler of the laws of Georgia and commander of a brigade in the Creek Indian War of 1836. Dawson served in both houses of the Georgia state legislature, in Congress from 1836 to 1842 and in the U.S. Senate from 1849 until 1855.

This distinguished lawyer, judge, politician, and soldier was born in Greensboro, Greene County, Georgia on January 4, 1798. His parents were George Dawson, Sr. and Katie Ruth Marston Skidmore.

Dawson took an academic course from the Rev. Dr. Cumming, and then he attended the county academy in Greensboro, and later graduated from Franklin College, Athens, Clarke County, Georgia in 1816 at the age of eighteen. Dawson studied law for a year in the office of the Hon. Thomas W. Cobb at Lexington, Oglethorpe County, Georgia, and then in the Litchfield Law School of Judges Tapping Reeve and James Gould at Litchfield, Connecticut. In 1818, he was admitted to the bar and practiced in Greensboro where he became a successful jury lawyer. He was known for his ability to settle cases out

of court. He was elected as one of the vice presidents of the Alumni Society of the University of Georgia at its first meeting, on August 4, 1834.

William Crosby Dawson
1798-1856

Dawson was elected Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives in 1821 and served twelve years, and served as state Senator from 1834 to 1835. He was Captain of Volunteers in 1836 during the Creek and Seminole Indian War in Florida with Winfield Scott. He was then elected as a States' Rights candidate to the United States House of Representatives for the 24th United States Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of General John E. Coffee. He took office on December 26, 1836, and was then re-elected as a Whig to the 25th, 26th, and 27th Congresses. He served from November 7, 1836, to November 13, 1841.

In 1841, he was a Whig candidate for governor of Georgia, but was defeated by Charles James McDonald. He saw his defeat as gubernatorial candidate as disapproval of his congressional service since he voted earlier in the year to tax coffee and tea, so he resigned from Congress.

He was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Georgia on November 8, 1843, and served in that capacity until his death in 1856. While in Congress, he was active in the local Freemasonry. The Dawson Lodge in Washington, D.C., and the Dawson Lodge in Social Circle, Georgia, were named for him.

Dawson was appointed by Governor George W. Crawford to fill a vacancy as Judge of the Ocmulgee Circuit Court in 1845, but declined being a candidate for the bench at the completion of his term.

He was elected in November, 1847 as a Whig candidate for Georgia's Class 3 seat in the United States Senate for the 31st, 32nd, and 33rd Congresses, serving from March 4, 1849, to March 3, 1855. Dawson supported the compromises that preserved the union in 1850. He chaired the Committee on Private Land Claims and presided over the Southern convention at Memphis in 1853.

Dawson was twice a delegate to the convention to amend the U.S. Constitution.

Dawson died in Greensboro on May 5, 1856, and was buried in Greensboro Cemetery with Masonic rites following a service at the Presbyterian Church. Because of his elegant manners, he was called "the first gentleman of Georgia" by Joseph Henry Lumpkin. Joshua Reed Giddings described him, "He was a man of much suavity of manner; one of that class of Southern statesmen who felt it necessary to carry every measure by the influence of personal kindness, and an expression of horror at all agitation of the slave question, under the apprehension that it might dissolve the Union."

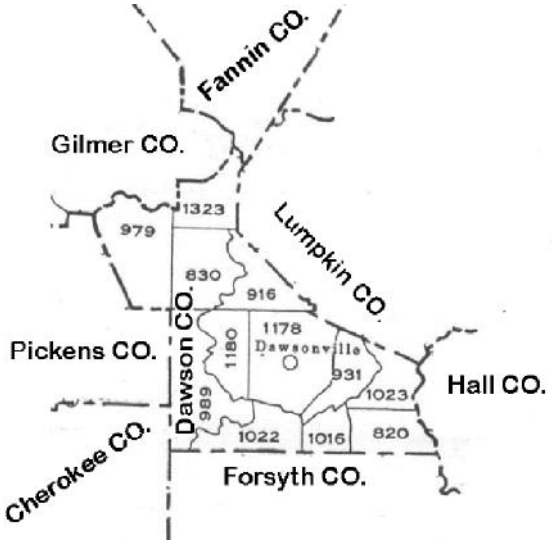
Upon his death, this is the opening paragraph found in many newspapers, this one from South Carolina's Charleston Courier, May 8, 1856, page 2:

"We are called on to announce the decease of one of Georgia's most honored citizens of public station and renown, and one who had worn fitly and faithfully the highest Honors of the State. The Hon. William Crosby Dawson expired at an early hour on Tuesday, the 6th inst., at his residence in Greensboro, Ga., of an attack of bilious cholic."

Dawson's marker in front of Greene County Courthouse reads:
William C. Dawson (1798-1856), Statesman--Soldier--Jurist--Freemason

Although it was never incorporated, the first county seat of Dawson County was located about three miles south of today's Dawsonville at a community called Rock Pile. The first election of the new county was set for the first Monday in March, 1858, which saw Daniel P. Monroe named Clerk of the Superior Court; John Matthews, Clerk of the Interior Court; John Bruce, Tax Collector; David H. Logan, Tax Receiver; Andrew J. Glenn, Surveyor; Absalom Curry, Constable; John W. Beck, Coroner; Samuel R. Findley, Sheriff; Henry K Mikel, Ordinary; and James B. Gordon, Treasurer. The Inferior Court Justices were John Matthew, chairman, A. L. Logan, Nathaniel Goss, Reuben Barrett, John Byers, and Samuel Harbin.

As Georgia created each county, it was divided into militia districts and they were assigned numbers at the time the county was formed. The districts which were formerly Lumpkin and Gilmer are now Dawson County districts. These are the Militia districts for Dawson County when it was first formed: Amicalola #830; Barretts #1022; Black #1016; Dawsonville #1178; Gilmer Cut-Off #979; Kilough #1023; Purdy #1180; Sanford #820; Savannah #931; Shoal Creek #916; and Yellow Creek #989. Later High Falls Militia district was formed as #1323.



Map showing the Militia Districts of Dawson County

By April 28, 1858, all county officers had the books that were necessary for the records of the county, and these were placed in a log structure which had been built for the temporary use of the court and other officers of the county. The log courthouse was built by James Foster for the sum of $30 and the benches by James Jackson for an additional $1.25. Most of the cases heard at the first session of court were for fi-fa or failure of note payments.

Records have not been found of how Dawsonville was selected as county seat of Dawson County, Georgia, but some deeds have been found for the lot of land where Dawsonville now is located.

According to *The 1832 Gold Lottery of Georgia, A list of the Fortunate Drawers In Said Lottery* published by Southern Historical Press by The Rev. S. Emmett Lucas, Jr., on Page 219 the land Lot # 440 in Dawsonville was drawn by Thomas Hay for 5 Orphans in Dekalb County.

It has not been found how F. N. Hardman was able to sell this lot to W. N. & Joel H. Shed. Records could have been lost or filed in another unknown county.

Deed for land lot four hundred forty (440), 4th Dist., 1st Sec. was between F. N. Hardman of Fulton County, Georgia of the first part, and W. N. Shed and Joel H. Shed of the second part of Fulton County, Georgia. They paid $100 for the lot. This deed was dated 2/7/1855 and Recorded 7/8/1858 in Dawson

County Georgia Deed Book A 1858-1867 on Page 64.

Deed for land lot four hundred forty (440), 4th Dist., 1st Sec. was between W.N. Shed & Joel H. Shed of Lumpkin County, Georgia of the first part, and Wayne Payne of Lumpkin County, Georgia of the second part. Payne paid $85 for the lot. This deed was dated 12/26/1855 and Recorded 7/8/1858 in Dawson County, Georgia Deed Book A 1858-1867 on page 65.

Deed for land lot four hundred forty (440), 4th Dist, 1st Sec. was between William Payne, Polk County, Tennessee of the first part, and Pollard Kelly of the second part. Kelly paid Payne $55 for the lot. This deed was dated 2/13/1857 and Recorded 7/8/1858 in Deed Book A 1858-1867 on page 66.

Pollard Kelly sold lot four hundred forty (440), 4th Dist, 1st Sec. for the sum of $200 to John Byers, Reuben Barrett, Samuel Harbin and Andrew J. Logan, Justices of the Inferior Court of Dawson County, Georgia. This deed was dated 3/23/1858 and Recorded 7/10/1858 in Deed Book A, 1858-1867 on page 67.

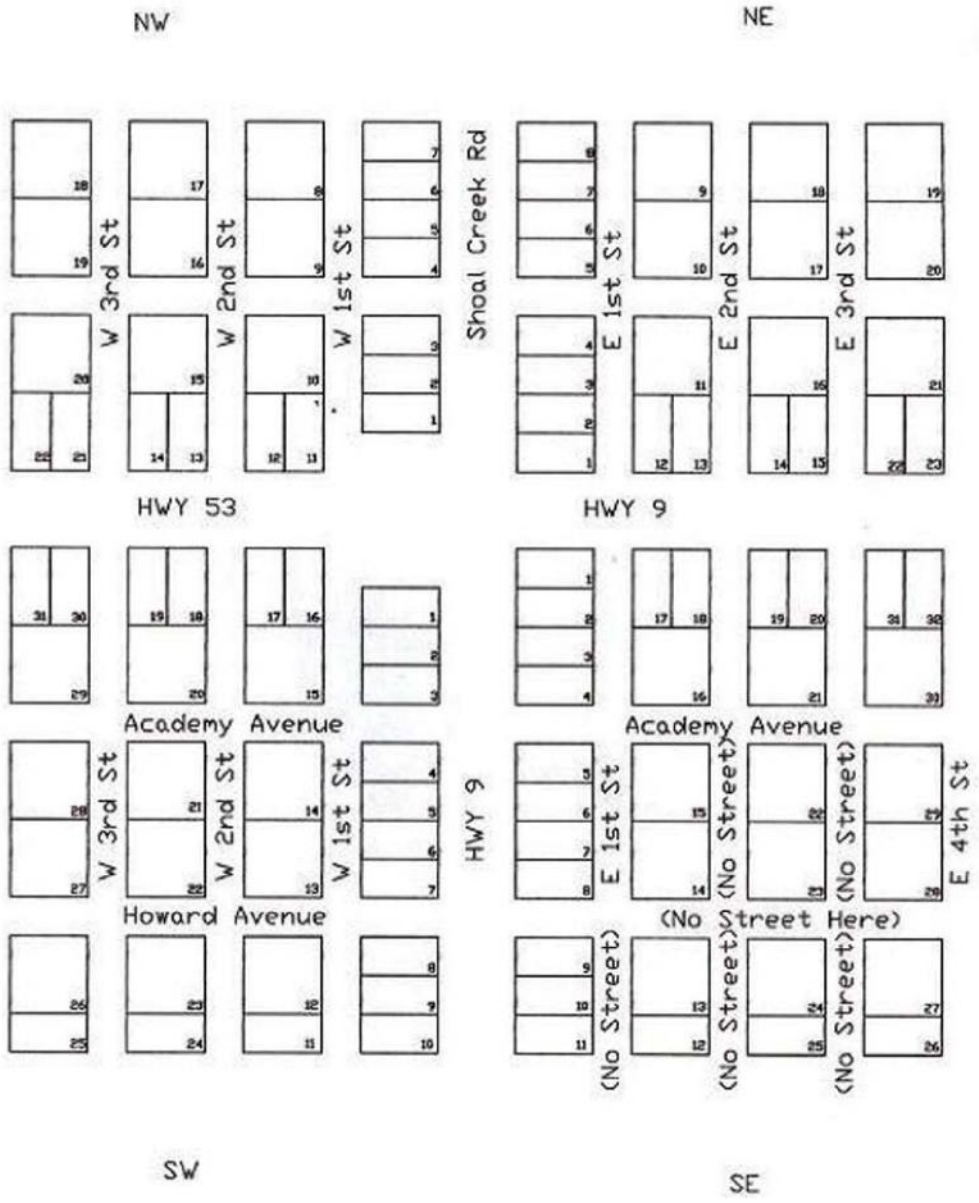
Once the county seat was located and deed for the land in the possession of the Justices of the Inferior Court of Dawson County, specific steps began to be taken to turn Land Lot 440 into a recognizable town. In her column, January 9, 1975, in the *Dawson County Advertiser*, Rebekah Wilson stated:

Andrew Glenn had been elected county surveyor, and he was assigned the task of laying out the new town of Dawsonville. Main streets were to be 99 feet wide. The back streets were to be 49 Y2 feet wide. Lots on the main street were to be 49 Y2 by 99 feet, and those on the back streets were to be 99 feet square. Fractional lots on the south east were to be the size of the lots on Main Street. With this decided, Mr. Green began surveying, and when he had finished, he received $135 in installment payments.

The next decision concerning clearing the main streets was made by contracting for the work to be done by the lowest bidder, who was John M. Cooper. His bid was for $15.95. The timbers in these streets were in turn sold to the highest bidder. By May, purchasers, including R.V. Williams, John Hockenhull, Calvin Lawless, and James Foster, had paid $11.25 of the $18.75 which the timber brought when sold. Amos Sutton was hired to grub the streets for $25. To most, grubbing meant the removal of undergrowth and stumps; but with lot 440 being a virgin lot, the undergrowth would not have been much, if any.

Permission was requested by and granted for further clearing of the lots. In front of the building lots of the city, the owners were to fell, prune, or let remain any reserved timbers of growth for a width of eight feet. This eight foot area was to be used to make a sidewalk or promenade. This pride in their wanting to make the “city” more attractive is evident today along Maple Street, for trees which were set out by A.M. Barrett, and from which the street got its name, are still standing. This street was the “highway” from Dawsonville to Silver City via the Rock Pile. This starts at the present day Highway 53 at the city cemetery and goes southward.

F. G. Smith gave 20 feet from his lot that joined Henry Howser’s property to the city, and Mr. Howser gave an additional 20 feet from his property. This was to make a street 40 feet wide running to the corner of the present Methodist Church from Highway 19 as nearly as can be determined. Mr. Howser gave 40 feet from this corner to Maple Street and 40 from Maple Street to the cemetery. Still with streets in view, Mr. Howser gave the same footage to the top of the hill, and this cornered at the point of his and Mr. Smith’s gifts.



The first map showing the layout of town
can be found in the Dawson County Courthouse

In Deed Book "A" 1858-1867, there are several deeds for "Town Lots." The Justices of the Inferior Court are selling the lots. They are listed as R. Barrett, John Byers, N.H. Goss, Samuel Harbin, & A. J. Logan.

These are all listed in Book "A" 1858-1867

Wier Boyd	4/28/1858	Lot # 2 NW	$ 51.00	Pages 16-17
Merideth Roper	4/28/1858	Lots #21 & #3 SW	$ 84.00	Page 18
He sold Lot #3 to	**Elias P. Bond**	on 1/12/1859 for	$70.00	Page 142
John Hockenhull, Jr.	4/28/1858	Lots #1 & #10 NW Lots	$293.00	Pages 18-19

		#22 & #29 SW		
Joseph W. Looper	4/29/1858	Lots #4 & #15 SE	$ 20.00	Page 20
Samuel C. Johnson John Hockenhull & J.M. Bishop	4/28/1858	Lot # 18 SW	$ 92.00	Page 21
Henry & Robert Howser	4/29/1858	Lots #24 &#25 SE #1#2&#11 SW	$271.00	Page 22
They sold to **A.S. Smith**	6/8/1859	Lots #24 & #25 SE	$ 30.00	Page 200
John Hockenhull, Sr	4/29/1858	Lots #20 & #18 SW #12 & #13 SE	$ 18.00	Page 30
John M Cooper	4/29/1858	Lot #15 NE	$ 41.50	Page 42
J A Spriggs	6/8/1858	Lot #19 & #20 NE	$ 42.25	Page 48
John Hockenhull Sr.	4/29/1858	Lot #11 SE street was the "hight	$ 14.15	Page 51
John Green	6/8/1858	Lot # 18 NE	$ 15.25	Page 52
John B. Hulsey	4/28/1858	Lot # 27 SW	$ 9.74	Page 79
He sold same lot to	**Wm. Barrett**	7/16/1858	$75.00	Pages 80-81
John B. Graham	4/29/1858	Lots #15#12#17 SW	$199.50	Page 102
Amos Sutton	4/29/1858	Lot # 9 SE	$ 15.40	Page 107
He sold same lot to	**Augustus Fossett**	on 9/21/1858 for	$15.40	Page 108
Martin Lowman	4/28/1858	Lot #14 SE	$8.00	Pages 110-111
He sold same lot to **Benjamin**	**Clark**	on 10/5/1858	$25.00	Page 112
H. H. Wilkle	4/28/1858	Lot #23 NE	$ 39.65	Page 117
John W. Hughes	12/6/1858	Lot #8 SE	$ 21.75	Page 124
John Bruce	4/28/1858	Lot #17 SE	$100.00	Page 136
S.C. Johnson & John Bruce	4/28/1858	Lot #21 SE	$ 16.50	Page 137
Ruebun Barrett to **S.C. Johnson John Hockenhull** & **John D. Palmour**	5/18/1859	Trustees For Masonic Hall	$90.00	Page 195
F. F. Findley	4/29/1858	Lots #6 #7 #8 #9 NE	$ 82.50	Page 197
Samuel E. Taylor	4/28/1858	Lot# 13 SW	$ 14.50	Page 201
A.S. Smith sold to **Henry & Robert Howser**	6/8/1859	Lot #13 SW{have not found where he bought it}	$ 30.00	Page 202
Samuel K. Findley	Sheriff seized	Town Lot # 2 NE on suit	of	Justices
of the Inferior Court against	**Newton**	**Harbin**... sold at		
Courthouse to **Dr. John Hockenhull**	8/2/1859		$25.00	Pages 227-228
Samuel Findley	4/29/1858	Lot #31 SE	$ 52.00	Page 263
He sold to **C.C. Bird** Lot #31 SE on 12/13/1858 for $137.50				Pages 264-265
C. C. Bird sold to **Lawson H. Hope**	3/5/1859	Land Lot #31SE	$140.00	Page 264
Samuel K. Findley Sheriff Fi-Fa on **Isaac W & George Harden** to **Henry Howser**	10/4/1859	Lot #6 SW sold at Courthouse	$80.60	Page 267

Henry Watkins	4/27/1859	Lot #13 NE	$ 68.00	Page 273
Samuel K. Findley Sheriff Fi-Fa on **Newton Harben**		Lot # 11 NE		Page 307
Sold to **John Hockenhull Jr**.	at Courthouse		$25.00	
M.Manning to **John Hockenhull, Jr.**	12/15/1859	Lot #30 SW	$ 47.00	Page 310
John Hockenhull to **Wm. Barrett**	9/17/1859	Lot # 28 SW	$15.00	Page 319
John Wallace and **John Hockenhull,** Md	4/4/1860	Town of Dawsonville.SE	Fraction	of Lot #12-
Corner of #11SE Alley lying	between	Lots 10 &11 SE; back	fraction	Lot #12 &
Lot #13			$10.00	Page 322
H. Tatum Sheriff Fi-Fa against **James Sutton**		Lot # 17 NE		
Sold to Justices of Inferior	Court	5/14/1860	$12.25	Page 330

With the town of Dawsonville laid out, a permanent structure was needed for storing records and offices for the county officials. The details for a new courthouse were included in Rebekah Wilson's columns in the *Dawson County Advertiser* in January and February, 1975:

John Hockenhull
Shirly Wilson Collection

Plans for a permanent courthouse were laid out in May 1858. The contract was made to Wesley McGuire, John Hockenhull, and Anderson Wilson. The first plans were to have a building 50 by 30 feet, with four gables. The window sills and steps were to be made of good planks. In August, however, the grand jury reviewed the plans and decided that the building should be 54 by 38 feet, have two gables, be made of good bricks or other materials such as the one in Gainesville and that the window sills and steps were to be made of granite, soapstone, or marble. They were building for the future.

A bond was secured by Harrison Summerour, John W. McAfee, and R. N. McClure for $9600 for money to build the courthouse. The building, when finished, cost approximately $6000. As money came into the treasury, the contractors were paid, and they in turn paid for the expenses. Tradition is that the contractors purchased lumber for the courthouse from John L. Summerour.

A slight difficulty arose in the collection of money for the treasury and $2500 had to be borrowed from Harrison Summerour in order to meet deadline payments. He received the last of the payments on this loan in 1869. N. H. Goss was paid $4.95 for building chairs necessary to furnish the courthouse. The bricks were purchased at a cost of $8.00 per 1000, and they were molded by slave labor. It is possible that some of the bricks were made "up the hollow" (from where the funeral home and the beauty shop were located in 1975 on Highway 9 South), but most of them appear to have been made on the Hockenhull farm near Barrettsville on the Etowah River.

The office rooms were often rented to a private individual, and the grand jury encouraged this practice. Marshall L. Smith had rented the northeast corner office for $1.00 per month, and W. I. Barrett had rented another for $10.00.

By February 1860, the grand jury presentments had this comment:

"..... the courthouse has been greatly abused and defaced by unknown persons and we the grand jury are glad because it would have been unpleasant to look upon the thing called a man who would want only to injure public buildings with no other purpose than the prompting of his own vile nature and no other aim than the gratification of his contemptible meanness." No reference was made to the type of damage the building had suffered.

Additional money was then paid to Mr. Hockenhull for "paving and fixing the courthouse outside walls." Since the building was brick it is possible that this was to finish the outside of the foundation.

As time passed the courthouse was kept in good repair. Some interesting repairs were:

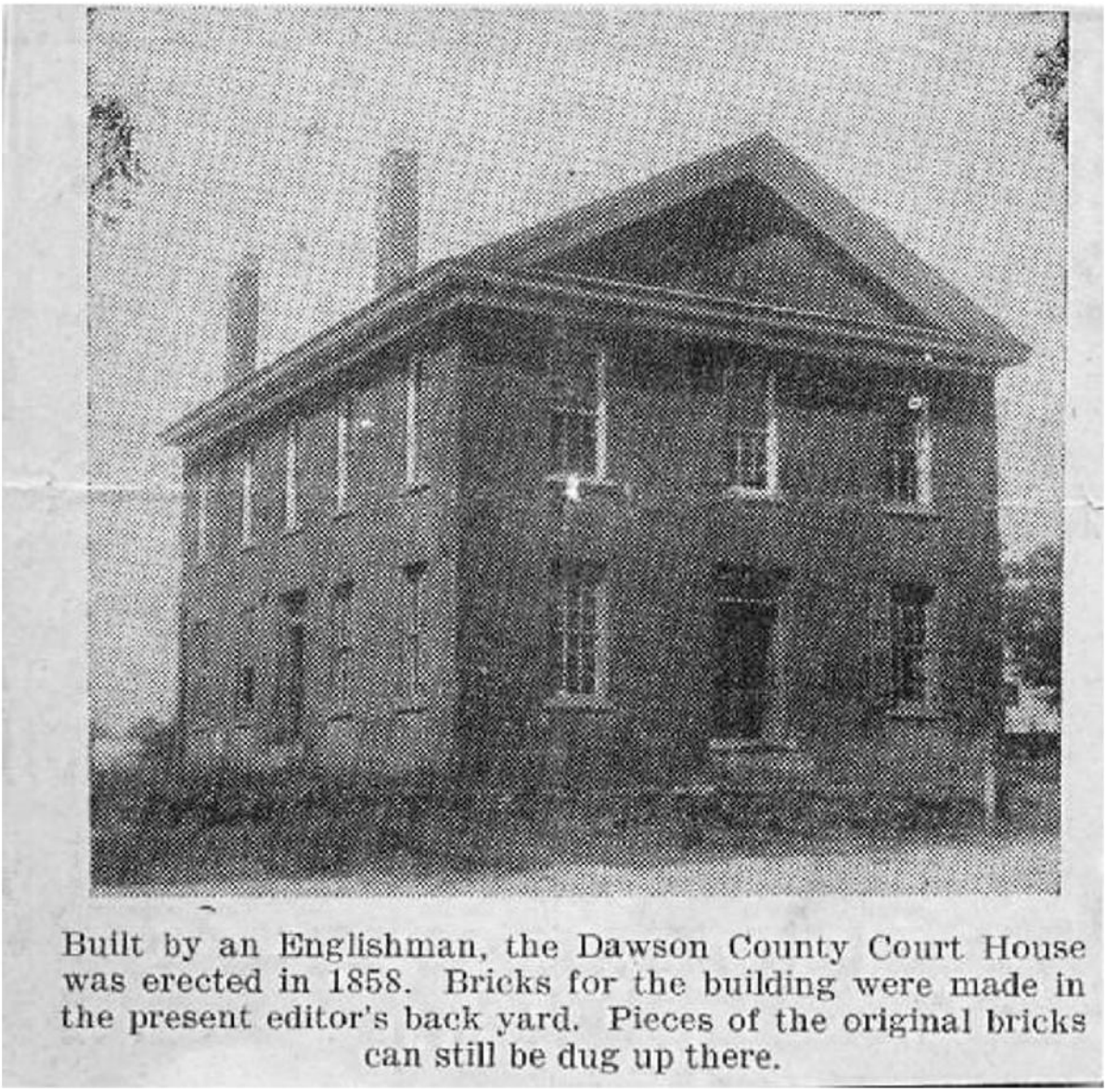
1. William Hollingshead ceiled the building.
2. Old shingles were removed (sold for $5), and lathing removed and the building recovered.
3. The northwest room (which was rented) was fitted for the commissioner's office, the windows were glazed (panes of glass were put in), and the building was painted or whitewashed from time to time.
4. A fence was built around the courthouse (there was no stock law), and locust trees were planted around it.
5. Sawdust was bought and kept on the floor until carpet could be laid.
6. Printed material was purchased and used for curtains at the window.
7. Shutters were added and painted.
8. The building was plastered on the inside when a contract was made with H. C. Thompson. A later contract with a man whose surname was Finger was given a contract to remove this plaster and re-do the entire building's walls.
9. Improved seating for the jurymen, upon the recommendation of the grand jury that "padded and upholstered" benches were to be made available for the "use of the jurymen."

With a courthouse underway, county officials turned to plans for a jail. In her column in the *Dawson County Advertiser*, February 20, 1975, Rebekah Wilson stated:

The contract for the first jail was awarded on July 6, 1858, to Alfred Hardin and John Prator. John Hockenhull, Sr., was the security for the $1,815 bond. The building lot was number 16 in the northwest division. The measurements were to be such that the building would have 208 square feet. The foundation was to be three feet wide, three deep, and eight inches above the ground. The floor was to be cross laid, held in place with iron spikes, five inches long and eight inches apart. The walls of the two floors were to be nine feet high for the ground floor, and eight feet high for the upper story. The ground floor was called the "dungeon" and the windows were to be three in number and two feet by eight inches. The windows upstairs were to number four and be slightly larger than those of the ground floor. The upper floor was referred to as the "debtor's floor." The jail timbers were to be well pined with 11/2 inch augers to reach through at least two logs.

It seems strange, doesn't it, that the part to be most secure was on the ground floor. The security was assured by having steps built on the outside of the building to a platform before a door. The door was 4 feet wide and six feet high. The ground floor was to be reached by a ladder through a trap door. Care for prisoners came from the "outside" from those who lived away from the jail, and seldom is notation found that indicates a guard having been hired to be on duty at night.

This first jail was destroyed by fire between August 1865 and February 1866. A Negro was confined to the jail awaiting trial. He piled straw in the corner and set it afire. He died in the fire, but people thought he was trying to burn a hole through which to escape. Since he was dead, no record was made of the charge against him. It was this incident that caused the 1868 grand jury to regret "that it isn't



Built by an Englishman, the Dawson County Court House was erected in 1858. Bricks for the building were made in the present editor's back yard. Pieces of the original bricks can still be dug up there.

Dawson County News Collection

possible to levy a tax to build a jail but we hope that times may soon flourish so that we will be able to build one."

It was not until 1871, that plans were made for another jail. Dawson County prisoners were housed in jails in adjoining counties during the period 1866 – 1871.

Although the General Assembly passed an act to incorporate the town of Dawsonville in December of 1859, and the citizens proceeded with getting their county established, another act of incorporation, this one with many more details, was enacted by the General Assembly in 1883.

The General Assembly of the State of Georgia passed the following law in Milledgeville at an Annual Session in November and December 1859:

An Act to incorporate the town of Dawsonville in the county of Dawson, in the State; and for other purposes

1. Sec. I. Be it enacted, That Dr. John Hockenhull, J. M. Bishop, Lawson Hope, Samuel C. Johnson, and William Barrett, be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners of the town of Dawsonville, in the county of Dawson in said State, with full power and authority to make all needful

rules and by-laws and regulations necessary for the government of said town, not repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this State, nor to the United States.

2. Sec. II. Be it further enacted, That said Commissioners shall continue in office until the first Saturday in January, 1861, on each day, and on the first Saturday in January in each year, and every year thereafter, all persons entitled to vote for members of the Legislature shall assemble at the Court-House, in said town, and shall by ballot elect, five Commissioners, who shall continue in office for one year, and until their successors are elected and qualified, and shall be eligible to a re-election. Said election shall be held by two Justices of the Peace, or two Justices of the Inferior Court, or one of either; together with one freeholder, whose duty it shall be to count out the votes of said election, and give to the persons receiving the highest number of votes at said election, a certificate of his or their election, and if said election shall, from any cause, fail to be held on the day aforesaid, then it shall be held at such other time as a majority of the Commissioners may determine, they giving five days previous notice of such election.

3. Sec. III. Said Commissioners shall have power to appoint a Marshal and Clerk, and such other officers as they may deem necessary to carry this act into effect, and that the jurisdiction of said Commissioners shall extend one quarter of a mile in each direction from the Court-House in said town of Dawsonville, and they are hereby authorized to act as Commissioners of Roads and Streets, in said Town, to the distance aforesaid; and said Commissioners shall have power to collect a tax from all shows which may exhibit within said town, and they may think fit and proper for the use of the incorporation, and impose such tax on all peddlers as said Commissioners may deem necessary, and enforce such fines upon persons violating any of the rules, and by-laws of said incorporation, as they may deem necessary for the good order of said town, and to imprison any person who shall fail to pay such fines in such manner as they may prescribe.

Sec. IV. Repeals conflicting laws.

Assented to, December 10, 1859

The following is listed in the Acts and Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia - 1882-1883:

To Incorporate The Town of Dawsonville, In The County of Dawson.

An Act to incorporate the town of Dawsonville, in the County of Dawson, and to prescribe the duties and powers of the officers thereof, and for other purposes.

Section I. be it enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia, That the town of Dawsonville, of the County of Dawson, said State, be, and the same is hereby incorporated under the name and style of the town of Dawsonville.

Sec. II. Be it further enacted, That the corporate limits of said town shall extend one thousand yards equidistant in every direction from the court-house in said town.

Sec. III. Be it further enacted, That John P. Lilly be, and he is hereby appointed Mayor, and James F. McHan, Josephus F. Castleberry and Leander S. Bailey be, and they are hereby appointed councilmen, to hold their said offices until the first annual election, as hereinafter provided.

Sec. IV. Be it further enacted, That on the first Monday in January, 1884, and on that day annually thereafter an election shall be held in the town of Dawsonville for a mayor and three councilmen, who shall hold their offices for one year and until their successors are elected and qualified; but no one shall vote for or be eligible to the office of mayor and councilmen of said town who does not reside within the corporate limits thereof, and who is not qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly. Said election shall be held and conducted as elections for county officers in this State, and the certificate of the managers shall be sufficient authority to the persons elected to enter upon the discharge of the duties of said offices.

Sec. V. Be it further enacted, That before entering upon the discharge of their duties the mayor and

each councilman shall subscribe the following oath, which shall be entered upon the minutes of said council, to wit: “I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully discharge all the duties devolving upon me as mayor (or councilman, as the case may be) of the town of Dawsonville, according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God.” This oath may be administered by any person authorized to administer oaths generally in this State.

Sec. VI. Be it further enacted, That said mayor and councilmen shall have authority to elect such marshals, clerks and other subordinate officers as they may deem necessary to the carrying out of the provisions of this charter; to prescribe the fees and duties of such officers, and to require such bonds for the faithful discharge of duty as they may deem necessary and proper.

Sec. VII. Be it further enacted, That the said mayor and each of said councilmen shall be ex-officio a justice of the peace, and have full authority as such to issue warrants for any offense committed within the corporate limits of said town, and shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses by subpoena and otherwise; to examine him under oath; to admit any offender to bail, or commit him to jail for a violation of the State laws, and to admit to bail or commit to the guard-house (or to the common jail, which may be used by said corporate authorities until such guard-house may be built), for violation of the ordinances of said town.

Sec. VIII. Be it further enacted, That said mayor and councilmen shall have full power and authority to make, pass, and enforce all ordinances and by-laws that they or a majority of them may deem necessary for the government, benefit and improvement of said town, not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of said State.

Sec. IX. Be it further enacted, That said mayor and councilmen shall have full power and authority to levy and collect a tax not exceeding five-tenths of one per cent upon all the taxable property, real and personal, within the corporate limits of said town. They shall also have power to require all persons within the corporate limits subject to road duty under the laws of this State to work on the streets of said town, or they may require a commutation tax to be paid in lieu of said street work, and if necessary they may apply so much of the ad valorem or special tax raised as aforesaid as may be necessary to keep said streets in good condition, and for this purpose may appoint one or more street commissioners, whose duty it shall be to supervise and oversee the working of all the streets within the corporate limits of said town under the direction of said council.

Sec. X. Be it further enacted, That the sale of spirituous or malt liquors, in any quantity within the limits of said incorporation is hereby prohibited; and any person who shall violate this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof in the superior court of said county, shall be punished as prescribed in section 4310 of the Code of Georgia, and the said town council shall have authority to cause the arrest of any person so violating this section and upon probable cause bind said offender over to the said superior court, and in default of bail to imprison such offender in the common jail.

Sec. XI. Be if further enacted, That the mayor of said town, and in his absence the mayor pro tem, (who shall be elected by said council from their own number), shall be chief executive officer of said town. He shall see that the ordinances, by-laws and regulations of the council are faithfully carried out and executed. He shall have control of the police of said town, and may appoint special police whenever in his judgment it may be necessary to preserve order in said town; and it shall be his duty especially to see to it that the peace and good order of the town are preserved, and the persons and property therein are protected, and to this end he may cause the arrest, detention and punishment of all disorderly and riotous persons within the limits of said town. He shall have power to issue execution for all fines and penalties, with costs imposed by him, or he may require the immediate payment thereof, and is default of such immediate payment he may imprison the defendant in the guard-house not exceeding thirty days, or may, in his discretions, cause such offender to work upon the streets of said town a like number of days, or may fine such offender in a sum not exceeding fifty dollars.

Sec. XII. Be it further enacted, That if at any time said office of mayor or councilmen should become vacant, from any cause whatever, the remaining members of the council may fill such vacancy by appointment from among the citizens of said town eligible to the office under the provisions of this charter.

Sec. XIII. Be it further enacted, That the mayor or mayor pro tem may charge and collect from defendants tried by them the same fees as are allowed justices of peace for similar services, and the marshal and his deputy shall be entitled to the same fees as are allowed constables for like services, and that all fines arising under this charter shall be paid into the treasury of said council and be applied to use of said incorporation upon the order of this council.

Sec. XIV. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Approved August 17, 1883

According to Rebekah Wilson there was a census in Dawson County in 1859. No other information has been located about this census. She stated in her column dated April 10, 1975, in the *Dawson County Advertiser:*

The first census of the county for which a record was found was in 1859. Henry Cantrell was appointed census taker, and he divided his report into Battalion number 253 and Battalion number 303. No reason or interpretation is found for this, but it could be 253 houses in one section of the county and 303 in another. Yet, the following information is given: 677 heads of families, 556 males between the ages of 6 and 16, 198 males under the age of 6 years, and 574 males over 16 years of age, 212 females under the age of 6 years, 493 females between the ages of 6 and 15 and 636 females over 15 years of age, 4 deaf and dumb, 1 lunatic, 1 idiot, Battalion number 1: Total-1641 whites, 202 slaves, 3 free person of color. Battalion Two: 2030 whites, 102 slaves, 1 free person of color. Grand total: 3671 Free Whites, 308 Slaves, 4 Free Person of Color.

The majority of the people in this census had been born in Georgia, followed by those born in South Carolina, North Carolina, a few in Alabama, and other states. The easiest way into Georgia was through Augusta, and following the Federal Roads westwards, the settlers "poured into" North and East Georgia.

Below is a list of the pioneers living within the county at the time the 1860 U. S. Census was taken:

Dawson County's 1860 Census by District with Head of Household

Amicalola (Head of House)
Location: North of Yellow Creek and along the Pickens County line

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
John Summerour	33 M	Farmer	10000	3500
James Mathis	24 M	Farmer	--	300
Samuel Harbin	41 M	Farmer	4000	800
Andrew O. Hughes	44 M	Common School Teacher	--	40
John Lingerfelt	35 M	Farmer	1900	456
William Wehunt	30 M	Farmer	1200	300
Fanny Bearden	40 F	Farmer	600	73

Levi Mills	25 M	Farmer	--	128
John Vaughen	63 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Benjamin L. Goss	31 M	Farmer	700	200
Alfred Garmon	44 M	Farmer	350	150
Benjamin Goss	52 M	Farmer	5000	1000
James West	26 M	Farmer	--	500
Martin V. Prince	20 M	Farmer	--	25
Levi Clark	67 M	Farmer	1000	200
Peter Howard	48 M	Farmer	50	50
John Mathis	30 M	Farmer	200	150
Jacob Mathis	60 M	Farmer	500	300
Zion Spriggs	25 M	Farmer	6000	1200
Thomas Hampton	50 M	Farmer	3000	200
James B. Gordon	31 M	Merchant	2000	400
Abraham Cochran	68 M	Farmer	300	200
John Sheffield	35 M	Miner	--	--
Collins Smith	49 M	Farmer	1000	75
Nathaniel W. Harbin	30 M	Farmer	1500	210
Emanuel Rudecil	21 M	Farmer	--	60
Nehemiah Bearden	43 M	Farmer	300	140
Leonard Bearden	42 M	Farmer	1600	400
Eber Smith	37 M	Farmer	400	60
William Bearden	23 M	Farmer	650	130
John Turner	48 M	Farmer	6000	1000
Zelpha Dobson	56 F	Farmer	80	300
Thomas Barrett	51 M	Farmer	500	100
Archibald Prince	27 M	Farmer	--	--
Solomon Clark	68 M	Farmer	1000	300
William Green	35 M	Day Laborer	--	200
Thomas Green	51 M	Farmer	300	150
Lewis Green	28 M	Farmer	--	150
Edward Green	22 M	Farmer	--	16
Isaac Smith	35 M	Monthly Laborer	40	25
John Weaver	35 M	Farmer	50	60
James Swancey	48 M	Farmer	--	75
Josiah Clayton	60 M	Farmer	600	700
Marion Bearden	26 M	Farmer	75	140
William Chester	25 M	Farmer	300	100
Larkin Prince	25 M	Farmer	200	100
Joseph Grogan	47 M	Farmer	800	400
Benjamin Harbin	26 M	Farmer	1200	400
Perry Howard	26 M	Farmer	600	130
Efford Seay	27 M	Farmer	40	40
Elizabeth Reid	43 F	--	200	50
John Cooper	30 M	Farmer	200	20
Lewis Mathis	25 M	Farmer	--	200

Elrod Denny	64 M	Farmer	1000	300
Elisha Denny	35 M	Farmer	200	300
John Cochran	38 M	Farmer	100	250
James Cochran	22 M	Farmer	350	300
Francis Cochran	33 M	Farmer	300	300
Posey Perry	27 M	Farmer	--	--
Elizabeth Bearden	60 F	--	--	--
Alexander Spriggs	41 M	Farmer	3700	500
Mary Carson	29 F	--	--	--
George Cochran	29 M	Farmer	200	250
Nathaniel Harbin	69 M	Farmer	1200	350
James Harbin	39 M	Farmer	1100	505
Julius McCreary	60 M	Farmer	400	100
Elizabeth Collier	40 F	--	--	--
John Rice	29 M	Farmer	40	25
James Talley	37 M	Farmer	2500	450
John Andrews	20 M	Farmer	--	--
John Rudecil	40 M	Farmer	--	150
Richard Grogan	24 M	Farmer	200	150
Jessee Harbin	25 M	Farmer	700	415
Rachel Lawrence	60 F	--	100	50
William Smith	70 M	Farmer	2500	300
Harvey Smith	25 M	Farmer	--	150
James Lively	45 M	Miller	--	50
Letty Fife	28 F	--	--	--
Ramson Seay	21 M	Farmer	--	175

Barretts (Head of House)
Location: Southern end of the County next to Forsyth County

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Anonymous W. Wilkin	29 M	Mechanic	--	300
Alfred Hardin	44 M	Farmer	400	175
Jeremiah W. Bangas	29 M	Farmer	--	--
Gipson Edwards	40 M	Farmer	--	200
Stephen Hyde	44 M	Mechanic	--	--
Benjamin Ashworth	38 M	Farmer	--	150
Presto J. Clark	30 M	Farmer	9000	400
Erley H. Collins	47 M	Farmer	--	175
David Qualls	62 M	Farmer	1000	20
William C. Jackson	26 M	Farmer	--	175
Jessee Martin	47 M	Farmer	--	200
Wesley Hamby	23 M	Farmer	--	280
Andrew J. Thompson	27 M	Farmer	25000	1000

Alfred M. Jackson	27 M	Farmer	--	75
John Wilkins	24 M	Mechanic	--	75
Joshua J.S. Stewart	41 M	Farmer	400	326
Phillip Cantrell	36 M	Farmer	6200	1050
Richard Payne	18 M	Farmer	--	45
James W. Kelley	40 M	Farmer	--	30
William B. Roper	24 M	Farmer	--	150
Merideth Roper	59 M	Farmer	2500	500
John Bowline	25 M	Farmer	--	15
Nancy Childress	37 F	--	--	--
Sarah Smith	47 F	--	--	--
Phidilla Martin	23 M	Farmer	--	40
John Pruitt	26 M	Farmer	500	110
Hannah Pruitt	25 F	--	--	--
Martha Roper	49 F	Farmer	800	170
James Rodgers	60 M	Mechanic	--	70
Allen Blackstocks	30 M	Mechanic	--	--
William J. Taylor	41 M	Farmer	1075	300
James Walker	26 M	Farmer	--	--
Wesley Dooly	26 M	Farmer	200	300
Mitchell Hollinshed	21 M	Farmer	--	140
William T. Shoemaker	25 M	Farmer	50	30
William Chastain	47 M	Farmer	150	100
William E. Vandiver	30 M	Farmer	300	200
Andrew J. Thomas	25 M	Farmer	--	20
Ellender Thomas	53 F	--	--	--
Catherine Henderson	56 F	--	--	--
James Hill	65 M	Farmer	1000	500
Narcissa Hill	43 F	--	--	--
John S. Moss	26 M	Farmer	--	300
Jasper Shoemaker	26 M	Miner	40	--
Jackson Martin	45 M	Farmer	100	25
James Harris	30 M	Farmer	--	50
Solomon Dykes	31 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Burdine Hollinshed	25 M	Farmer	300	70
Nancy Evans	46 F	--	--	--
Benjamin Harris	40 M	Farmer	20	35
George C. Roper	22 M	Farmer	--	400
William Hall	30 M	Farmer	--	30
William McGinnis	30 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Wesley McGuire	55 M	Farmer	700	200
James T. Barrett	58 M	Farmer	1100	700
Reuben Barrett	56 M	Farmer	1800	700
John R. Barrett	40 M	Farmer	650	350
Capel H. Barrett	49 M	Farmer	700	300
Daniel Fricks	24 M	Farmer	--	--

Solomon Roper	23 M	Farmer	--	100
James Bowline	22 M	Monthly Laborer	--	18
Robert M. Barrett	21 M	Merchant	175	600
Isaac S. Barrett	20 M	Common School Teacher	--	--
Asberry Jackson	20 M	Farmer	--	40
Wade H. Barrett	36 M	Farmer	--	75
John Hockenhull	49 M	Farmer	12500	3500
Isaac Mincey	56 M	Farmer	--	200
James L. Baird	37 M	Miner	--	--
Polly Tomlin	32 F	--	--	--
Sarah Dempsey	33 F	--	--	--
Luke Ward	27 M	Farmer	--	25

Blacks (Head of House)
Location: West of Sanford

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Absalom Martin	50 M	Farmer	--	400
James M. Cobb	60 M	Merchant & Farmer	8000	6000
Joseph W. Looper	53 M	Farmer	14000	500
Gildaroy W. Smith	50 M	Merchant & Farmer	1550	800
Elisha Murphrie	55 M	Farmer	500	400
Isaac W. Elliott	40 M	Farmer	--	150
James Jackson	49 M	Mechanic	--	196
Stephen Cantrell	40 M	Farmer	10000	1000
John Palmer	32 M	Farmer	13500	2000
Virgil Smith	35 M	Mechanic	--	200
Robert N. McClure	24 M	Farmer	9000	1500
Joseph B Byers	28 M	Common School Teacher	--	--
Francis Byers	21 M	Farmer	550	100
Thomas Rolin	28 M	Farmer	800	850
Elizabeth Smith	50 F	--	500	200
Hugh Tatum	77 M	Farmer	1600	250
Joseph Woodall	55 M	Farmer	--	100
William Hendrix	33 M	Merchant	500	360
John Smith	38 M	Farmer	--	200
Gideon Smith	28 M	Farmer	--	--
Peter Rolin	67 M	Farmer	--	20
Daniel Hammond	24 M	Farmer	--	160
Tillman Rollin	37 M	Tanner	900	345
James Black	53 M	Farmer	6000	1200
Jonathan Croy	32 M	Farmer	--	--
James M. Cox	42 M	Farmer	1000	400
Leander Moore	19 M	Farmer	--	115

Mary Perry	60 F	--	45	25
Joseph Chapman	70 M	Farmer	--	--
Hampton Watson	44 M	Farmer	200	75
Gazaway Cheek	49 M	Farmer	5800	600
Anna Weyings	58 F	--	--	--
Christopher Whitmore	22 M	Farmer	--	25
William Wallis	32 M	Farmer	600	550
William Richardson	33 M	Farmer	500	150
William Glass	53 M	Farmer	500	100
Aaron Roper	60 M	Farmer	9800	800
George White	56 M	Common School Teacher	600	250
Hiram Crane	56 M	Farmer	1400	400
William Allen	39 M	Mechanic	125	--
Jessee Hendrix	37 M	Farmer	800	260
John C. Crunly	35 M	Farmer	--	130
Frederick Wehunt	35 M	Farmer	250	200
Hiram Richardson	67 M	Farmer	400	300
Elias Bruce	47 M	Farmer	--	300
Dido Porter	48 M	Farmer	60	35
George Woodall	34 M	Farmer	--	30
John McClure	23 M	Miller	--	300
Marion Borin	28 M	Miller	--	--
David Wallis	26 M	Farmer	--	200
Daniel Tatum	26 M	Farmer	300	250
Elijah Johnson	83 M	Retired Farmer	--	--
Ebry Cannon	34 M	Miner	--	180

Dawsonville (Head of House)
Location: Included the County Seat and City of Dawsonville

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Richard V. Wilson	29 M	Brick Mason	100	15
Daniel M. Fowler	23 M	Farmer	150	200
James B Fowler	31 M	Day Laborer	21	200
Henry Findley	66 M	Day Laborer	250	--
Benjamin Clark	32 M	Farmer	600	25
James J. Stone	24 M	Farmer	--	150
Calvin Holcomb	21 M	Day Laborer	--	--
William Sullivan	56 M	Mechanic	--	150
Andrew J. Logan	27 M	Farmer	1800	800
Reuben L. Burt	45 M	Farmer	3700	1100
Hola... Sherwood	50 M	Farmer	100	20
Henry Howser	39 M	Mill Wright	4300	1200
Robert Howser	28 M	Mill Wright	--	--

John Howser	22 M	Mason & Plasterer	--	--
Dennis Turner	24 M	Farmer	60	23
Elias Tucker	31 M	Farmer	200	130
John Qualls	30 M	Mechanic	800	450
D. H. Logan	23 M	County Officer	40	225
Samuel C. Johnson	28 M	Atty-at-Law	500	20
John W. Hughes	54 M	County Officer	1000	240
Horatio Tatum	38 M	County Officer	1400	250
Washington Whitmore	45 M	Mechanic	150	500
Lawson H. Hope	33 M	Merchant	30	2900
John R. Pynan	24 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Daniel Neal	40 M	Farmer	125	150
Hezekiah Wilkins	52 M	Mechanic	70	30
Samuel R. Findley	26 M	Farmer	300	200
John Wallis	57 M	Farmer	1700	410
Sylvanias Martin	22 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Elias P. Bond	44 M	Mechanic	100	275
Sylvester Edwards	31 M	Farmer	950	344
Stephen Hyde	56 M	Farmer	800	150
John Blasingam	68 M	Farmer	1200	300
Dennis Hyde	50 M	Farmer	1000	782
Oliver Hyde	19 M	Mail Carrier	--	--
James Banister	55 M	Farmer	1500	300
Margaret Hughes	32 F	No Occupation	--	--
Jackson Carlisle	46 M	Farmer	150	100
Tandy W. Turner	30 M	Day Laborer	75	25
Jordan Anderson	47 M	Farmer	3000	1240
Elias Daniel	30 M	Farmer	350	150
William Kelly	48 M	Farmer	3000	300
James Barron	44 M	Farmer	1300	150
Temperance A Griess	28 F	No Occupation	--	--
Ambrose Payne	50 M	Miller	--	--
Nicholas Tesseeneer	24 M	Farmer	--	100
Adam Thompson	47 M	Farmer	1400	400
Hopkins D Ruth	59 M	Mechanic	--	--
John C. Richardson	27 M	Common school Teacher	--	20
Marshal L. Smith	24 M	Atty-At-Law	--	--
Daniel P. Monroe	50 M	County Officer & Farmer	400	305
William J Beck	21 M	Farmer	40	300
Rebecca Brown	38 F	--	--	--
Susanna Hyde	76 F	--	--	--
Pollard Kelly	35 M	Farmer	1000	200
James M. Hulsey	43 M	Mechanic	25	100
James Pinion	22 M	Farmer	--	50
Jacob Pyian	52 M	Farmer	500	225
Allen Adams	63 M	Mechanic	--	75

George Robinson	21 M	Farmer	--	230
William R. Sluder	24 M	Farmer	--	100
James Tesseeneer	55 M	Farmer	600	400
John Carlisle	21 M	Farmer Laborer	--	--
John B. Hulsey	44 M	Farmer	1000	330
Berry Rider	30 M	Miner	--	--
John Fouts	47 M	Farmer	900	450
Absalom Carney	49 M	Farmer	130	30
Benjamin Shelton	60 M	Farmer	120	60
Ezekiel Shelton	25 M	Farmer	125	15
John Hochinhull	28 M	Physician	2000	2095
John Croy	64 M	Farmer	--	150
Joseph Hulsey	35 M	Miner	--	25
James Reynolds	78 M	Retired Mechanic	--	--
Henry Roach	27 M	Farmer	15	150
William Hix	26 M	Farmer	200	50
Moses Burt	24 M	Farmer	500	350
Jane Howard	34 F	Farmer	150	50
John Hyde	53 M	Farmer	1000	200
Charles Hockinhull	25 M	Farmer	2500	1000
Rebecca Robinson	49 F	Farmer	1400	30
Margeman Manning	55 M	Farmer	3300	300
Isaac Blount	59 M	Miller	--	--
Allia Young	40 F	Farmer	--	50
Margaret Lawless	34 F	--	--	--
Susan Neighbors	50 F	--	--	--
Newton Anderson	22 M	Farmer	--	200
Josiah Haithcock	32 M	Farmer	--	--
Prestley Martin	60 M	Farmer	--	100
William I. Barrett	23 M	Retired Merchant	800	800
Alfred Herrin	21 M	Farmer	--	15

Gilmer (Head of House)
Location: cut-off from Gilmer County and northwest part of the County

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Dempsey Seay	35 M	Farmer	200	200
Osborn Seay	65 M	Farmer	760	350
John Goss	41 M	Farmer	800	600
Samuel M. Densmore	22 M	Farmer	--	245
Evan P. Perry	30 M	Farmer	--	550
Richard Green	60 M	Farmer	300	250
Nathaniel Goss	54 M	Farmer	14000	5550
William S. Densmore	27 M	Farmer	100	200
Francis Satterfield	32 M	Farmer	--	150
Asa Padget	51 M	Farmer	1000	200
Jacob Padget	25 M	Farmer	--	100
John Sandling	36 M	Farmer	250	130
James Ruddell	34 M	Farmer	400	125
David Ruddell	36 M	Farmer	700	183
Zachariah Cox	34 M	Farmer	150	200
Elias Pettit	40 M	Farmer	250	600
Tabitha Pettit	60 M	--	--	--
David Densmore	25 M	Farmer	--	211
David Densmore	53 M	Farmer	1660	1037
Calvin Goss	22 M	Farmer	--	175
John Green	26 M	Farmer	--	50
James Reece	39 M	Farmer	1200	300
Thomas Howard	43 M	Farmer	500	300
Henry Carswell	27 M	Mechanic	--	30
John Wilkins	38 M	Farmer	400	300
Permelia Reece	54 F	--	100	15
John Mullinax	71 M	Retired Farmer	275	135
James Farriba	38 M	Farmer	1000	50
Sephas Farriba	25 M	Farmer	1000	30
Lewis Cantrell	30 M	Farmer	--	10
Cyrus Seay	54 M	Farmer	300	65
John Holden	29 M	Farmer	400	140
Josiah Dilbeck	60 M	Farmer	600	150
William Dilbeck	54 M	Farmer	--	80
John Dilbeck	33 M	Farmer	1200	250
John L. Grogan	32 M	Farmer	1200	200
John Seay	47 M	Retired Farmer	600	80
William Grogan	33 M	Farmer	700	250
Richard Grogan	59 M	Retired Farmer	200	325
Alfred McHearing	60 M	Common School	--	--

		Teacher		
Edwin Edwards	55 M	Wagoner	--	--
Green Perry	39 M	Farmer	350	450
William Thomas	23 M	Day Laborer	--	--
John Langston	68 M	Farmer	7400	535
Nancy McKay	28 F	--	--	--
Loranzo Fawcett	40 M	Farmer	1500	300
Martin Lawman	43 M	Farmer	3000	500
Perry Grogan	32 M	Farmer	300	100
Mathew Langston	37 M	Farmer	2000	200
Anderson Stephens	39 M	Farmer	1000	75
Drucilla Stephens	41 F	--	--	--
Nathaniel Anderson	69 M	Farmer	85	50
William Callahan	32 M	Farmer	100	50
John Callahan	70 M	Farmer	300	--
Nathaniel Callahan	20 M	Farmer	--	--
Asa Haywood	83 M	Mechanic	16	30
Alvin Prince	32 M	Farmer	75	10
James Craig	20 M	Day Laborer	--	--

Kilough (Head of House)
Location: North of Sanfords and Blacks, all east of Etowah River

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Thomas Stowers	38 M	Farmer	3500	1000
Alfred Byers	42 M	Farmer	--	1000
Alexanders Henry	26 M	Farmer	--	90
Singleton Henry	30 M	Farmer	--	45
James Barker	38 M	Farmer	--	180
Stephen B. Kitchens	34 M	Farmer	2100	1400
Jessee Smith	67 M	Miner	--	--
William Clark	23 M	Farmer	--	32
David Wade	42 M	Farmer	100	60
John Taylor	53 M	Farmer	1000	400
James Taylor	22 M	Miner	--	--
John B. Graham	45 M	Miner	2700	1450
Elizabeth Mason	83 F	--	--	--
George Coker	36 M	--	--	--
David Henry	25 M	Farmer	--	--
Sidney Forbus	59 M	Farmer	--	--
William Forbus	20 M	Miner	--	--
Jeremiah Williams	40 M	Farmer	--	75
Catherine Lee	36 F	--	--	--

Juliann Dougherty	40 F	--	--	--
Gabriel Morris	25 M	Miner	--	--
Elizabeth McLain	70 F	--	100	--
Thomas Mullinax	53 M	Farmer	--	200
Andrew Mullinax	32 M	Farmer	1500	100
Mary Doughtery	78 F	--	--	--
Silus Palmer	39 M	Farmer	14000	2655
William J. Burt	22 M	Medical Student	--	--
Thomas J. Griffin	30 M	Farmer	--	150
James Stone	40 M	Farmer	--	--
Martin Dickson	49 M	Miner	--	75
Young C. Hawkins	38 M	Farmer	300	100
Clark W. Smith	27 M	Farmer	--	--
Mary Byers	62 F	--	--	200
Butler Turner	56 M	Farmer	100	90
Amos G. Robinson	29 M	Farmer	225	300
John Byers	45 M	Farmer	2500	1000
Stanford Smith	28 M	Farmer	--	60

Purdies (Head of House)
Location: East of Yellow Creek, north of Barretts and west of Dawsonville

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Thomas Elsey	40 M	Farmer	--	20
John Whitley	45 M	Farmer	200	75
Clark J. Purdy	45 M	Farmer	500	900
Amos Sutton	41 M	Farmer	--	10
Thomas Daniel	46 M	Farmer	325	100
John Hopkins	40 M	Farmer	100	10
David W. Summerour	23 M	Farmer	225	15
Martin Thaxton	23 M	Farmer	40	60
James Netherland	60 M	Mechanic	300	100
Levina Netherland	18 F	Common School Teacher	125	--
Jacob Simmenson	50 M	Mechanic	150	50
Washington	59 M	Farmer	450	300
Lafayette McDonald	26 M	Farmer	250	150
William Crynuss	33 M	Farmer	300	150
Rebecca Chumbly	23 F	Farmer	--	20
Henry T. Whitmore	50 M	Farmer	30	--
Sarah Chumbly	45 F	Farmer	--	15
James Heard	60 M	Farmer	500	500

Henry Nelson	42 M	Farmer	300	384
William H. Lyons	52 M	Farmer	600	440
Hiram Brooks	41 M	Farmer	300	100
Moses Brooks	30 M	Farmer	25	160
Willis Evans	42 M	Farmer	50	150
Richard Steele	60 M	Miner	--	--
Emanuel Steele	25 M	Farm Laborer	--	--
George W. Steele	29 M	Miner	--	--
Barlus Green	50 M	Farmer	100	100
James Sutton	70 M	Farmer	200	175
Christopher Young	32 M	Farmer	300	270
James McDonald	52 M	Farmer	100	75

Sanford (Head of House)
Location: East part of the County touching Hall and Forsyth Counties

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Franklin B. Duncan	38 M	Farmer	1500	400
Moses C Cannon	36 M	Farmer	700	150
John Smith Jr.	47 M	Farmer	800	300
James P. Neal	62 M	Farmer	--	850
Benson Stephens	47 M	Mechanic	1000	500
Joshua O'Sheild	47 M	Farmer	--	250
James Cantrell	59 M	Farmer	800	75
John Brice	56 M	Farmer	1000	500
Raymond Sanford	68 M	Farmer	27000	10000
James Booker	62 M	Mechanic	--	--
Leonard Bolding	42 M	Farmer	--	2500
John Westbrooks	22 M	Farmer	--	125
John Lowery	46 M	Mechanic	400	400
Francis Andoe	63 M	Farmer	2500	300
Thomas J. Price	22 M	Farmer	--	--
Uriah Hubbard	52 M	Farmer	400	200
Thomas Goss	60 M	Day Laborer	--	40
John Childress	34 M	Farmer	300	110
John Taylor	25 M	Farmer	--	40
William Taylor	66 M	Farmer	1000	200
Calvin Dobbs	22 M	Farmer	--	40
Richard Smith	26 M	Farmer	--	--
William D. Williams	36 M	Farmer	1200	75
Lemmel Turner	54 M	Farmer	1000	300
Ausborn J. Taylor	45 M	Farmer	2600	355
Martha Dobbs	46 F	--	--	--
Luke Hendrix	65 M	Farmer	1300	850

Prater Hendrix	37 M	Farmer	--	90
Andrew Smith	31 M	Farmer	1000	300
Abraham Childress	29 M	Farmer	160	--
Joel Bennett	38 M	Farmer	1000	400
Alonzo Harris	24 M	Farmer	--	--
Elizabeth O'Sheild	38 F	--	--	50
David Clark	57 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Nathaniel Slaton	20 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Marion Brice	32 M	Farmer	250	175
Sarah Miller	35 F	--	--	130
Thomas Grant	28 M	Farmer	--	50
Mary Smith	63 F	--	100	25
Thomas V. Rieves	25 M	Farmer	1800	900
Wright Williams	62 M	Farmer	6500	300
Edward G. Riley	30 M	Farmer	--	--
William Childers	30 M	Farmer	--	--
Ann McCorkle	80 F	--	--	--
Alexander McKinney	51 M	Farmer	--	--
James Mckinney	24 M	Common School Teacher	--	--
Rhoda Manning	28 F	--	--	--
William Birds	63 M	Farmer	1500	100
George C. Campbell	43 M	Mechanic	--	70
William Hudlow	37 M	Farmer	200	350
Bennett Tuck	44 M	Miller	--	600
Margaret Oliver	50 F	--	--	--
Asa Holcomb	31 M	Farm Labor	--	--
William Childers	61 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Samuel E. Taylor	32 M	Miner	1000	600
Bartley Turner	39 M	Farmer	--	20
Cynthia Stripland	48 F	--	--	85
Daniel Brice	59 M	Farmer	1000	400
John H. Chamber	47 M	Farmer	--	50
Asberry Stephens	24 M	Farmer	--	--
Alexander Bird	34 M	Farmer	900	100

Shoal Creek (Head of House)
Location: Northern part of the County

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Jesse Blackburn	38 M	Farmer	450	250
Marion K. Hall	27 M	Farmer	300	200
Jeptha Minyard	35 M	Farmer	800	--
William Bennett	40 M	Farmer	1350	527
James J. Burt	48 M	Farmer	5500	2000

William Anderson	38 M	Farmer	3200	8000
Joseph McKee	65 M	Farmer	20000	750
John Hix	48 M	Farmer	--	19
Green Foster	29 M	Farmer	50	100
Daniel Hyde	72 M	Farmer	300	80
Gabriel Barron	38 M	Farmer	600	375
Isaac Barron	69 M	Farmer	400	170
Henry Hix	21 M	Farmer	--	75
Green B. Hall	37 M	Farmer	900	300
Cleveland Andrews	46 M	Farmer	400	225
Jason Yother	33 M	Farmer	--	60
Clark J. Burt	34 M	Farmer	500	300
J. H. Payne	40 M	Farmer	--	50
Dempsey Rice	25 M	Farmer	--	--
John C. Blackburn	35 M	Farmer	90	90
Francis Stone	23 F	--	--	--
Sarah Rice	56 F	Farmer	400	300
James Bearden	22 M	Farmer	--	100
Lewis Wehunt	42 M	Mechanic	450	60
Elijah W. Carder	28 M	Mechanic	--	--
William Burt	58 M	Farmer	3000	410
David J. Burt	23 M	Farmer	300	287
Clayton Ayers	34 M	Farmer	--	250
James Howel	35 M	Farmer	--	60
Mary Braden	37 F	--	--	--
Mary Fife	50 F	--	--	--
John Green	55 M	Farmer	400	150
Bishop Green	29 M	Farmer	--	100
William Swafford	40 M	Farmer	450	165
Mary Barnett	36 F	Farmer	--	40
Abby Dooly	40 F	--	300	50
Zebulon Payne	32 M	Farmer	250	200
Benjamin W. Payne	60 M	Farmer & Tanner	3500	1000
Elijah Blackburn	30 M	Farmer	500	450
Solomon Millsaps	63 M	Mechanic	300	200
Linzey Vaughters	39 M	Farmer	1500	500
John Scoggins	37 M	Farmer	--	--
William M.Glenn	34 M	Farmer	--	--
Robert Bennett	30 M	Farmer	1000	700
Isaiah Millsaps	22 M	Mechanic	--	--
John Kelley	20 M	Farmer	--	--

Yellow Creek (Head of House)
Location: Southwest part of the County touching Pickens, Cherokee and Forsyth Counties

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Andrew Hill	28 M	Farmer	600	400
John Hollinshed	38 M	Farmer	500	300
Martha Hill	50 F	Farmer	2500	390
David M. Hill	25 M	Farmer	--	200
John Scott	35 M	Farmer	800	275
James R. Ledbetter	42 M	Farmer	800	325
John Holcomb	66 M	Farmer	400	100
John Evans	55 M	Farmer	125	50
Hansel S. Jones	34 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Selah Jones	62 F	--	120	12
Adam Sother	48 M	Farmer	100	50
William M. Harrison	24 M	Farmer	--	150
Eliza Yarbrough	35 F	Farmer	300	125
James Barber	44 M	Farmer	150	100
John A. Heard	29 M	Merchant	1500	400
James S. Heard	26 M	Farmer	1500	400
John H. Covington	40 M	Farmer	1200	825
Joseph Hudlow	43 M	Farmer	--	100
Thompson Chumbly	40 M	Farmer	700	150
Benjamin Jones	56 M	Farmer	500	214
John Beam	22 M	Mechanic	--	150
Abram Beam	51 M	Mechanic	400	400
Benson Daniel	22 M	Day Laborer	--	15
Sidney Pettit	27 M	Farmer	500	100
Elijah Ashworth	47 M	Farmer	--	250
William L. Reynolds, Sr.	64 M	Farmer	1200	200
William L. Reynolds	22 M	Farmer	700	200
Mary Reynolds	42 F	--	--	--
Green L. Hamby	34 M	Farmer	100	100
Van Howard	36 M	Farmer	300	250
Martin Wood	22 M	Farmer	--	50
Clinton Hill	59 M	Farmer	20	35
Oliver Smith	33 M	Farmer	--	50
Buford Holcomb	42 M	Farmer	--	--
Alfred Webb	59 M	Farmer	10000	1000
David Hill	64 M	Farmer	5000	1000
Sarah Hamby	45 F	Farmer	900	200
Lewis J. Ledbetter	37 M	Farmer	3340	700
Johnson Ledbetter	74 M	Farmer	3800	400
Thomas H. Smith	35 M	Farmer	1400	300

William Hardin	22 M	Farmer	--	--
Augustus Williams	52 M	Farmer	2050	350
John W. Hill	25 M	Farmer	600	140
James L. Harris	26 M	Miller	2500	750
James Banister	21 M	Day Laborer	--	375
William L. Ray	22 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Aaron Martin	35 M	Mechanic	40	--
Phillip Porter	48 M	Farmer	--	130
Edmond Harp	40 M	Miller	--	--
Seneth Wood	35 F	--	--	--
James S. Findly	42 M	Farmer	200	100
Andrew L. Thompson	40 M	Farmer	--	65
James R. Tanner	57 M	Farmer	4000	300
Francis M. Tanner	27 M	Miner	--	--
Elias L. Tanner	24 M	Miner	--	--
Nancy Holcomb	50 M	Farmer	80	70
Sarah Hudlow	68 F	--	300	60
George B. Hudlow	39 M	Farmer	900	200
Jessee Taylor	24 M	Farmer	--	--
John Covington	26 M	Farmer	125	100
Elizabeth Brooks	63 F	Farmer	160	30
Samuel L. Monroe	23 M	Farmer	350	160
Elias Whitehead	39 M	Farmer	--	25
William Jones	60 M	Farmer	525	125
Joseph Ledbetter	33 M	Farmer	600	400
Arrena Ledbetter	38 F	Farmer	200	250
Benjamin Mealer	23 M	Farmer	--	15
David Durkin	61 M	Farmer	125	75
Nehemiah Evans	33 M	Farmer	800	100
Calvin Mills	62 M	Farmer	400	100
Adolphus Mills	33 M	Farmer	--	45
Mason Chumbly	60 M	Farmer	--	30
Osias Ledbetter	26 M	Farmer	--	180
Morgan Kirby	52 M	Farmer	--	75
William B. Nichols	22 M	Farmer	150	20

Savannah (Head of House)
Location: Along the west side of Etowah River

Name	Age & Sex	Occupation	Value-Real Estate	Value-Personal Estate
Calvin J. Lawless	32 M	Farmer	800	125
Henry Talley	63 M	Farmer	--	190
James Boswell	49 M	Farmer & Miner	--	60
James Kelley	49 M	Farmer & Miner	--	--

Josephus Rhodes	58 M	Farmer	2000	500
William R. Bell	30 M	Farmer	100	30
Joseph Rouse	38 M	Farmer	200	50
Mary Lawless	50 F	--	--	--
Mary Martin	26 F	--	--	--
Henry Dunaway	28 M	Farm Laborer	--	--
Priestly E. Willis	36 M	Miner	232	75
Malinda Roper	42 F	--	--	--
William W. Odom	36 M	Miner	300	300
William Myers	83 M	Miner	--	--
Delitha Blaylock	39 F	--	--	--
Thomas Goswick	44 M	Miner	100	--
Madison Ceames	45 M	Farmer	100	100
William W. Cearmes	24 M	Farmer	--	100
Willington Blake	46 M	Miner	--	--
Benjamin Haring	26 M	Day Laborer	--	--
Pickens Willis	30 M	Farmer	800	150
Mary Barnhill	50 F	--	--	--
Nancy Nix	49 F	Farmer	1072	197
John Kallus	23 M	Farmer	--	--
John W. Dickson	26 M	Farmer	150	125
Reuben H. Moss	48 M	Mechanic	400	1000
Solomon Palmer	33 M	Farmer	900	110
Hiram Moss	40 M	Farmer	--	70
Mikel Mayock	41 M	Farmer	1200	1600
Silus Palmer	62 M	Farmer	20000	2400
Aaron Palmer	69 M	Gentleman	760	--
John D. Palmer	32 M	Miner	600	--
John Cooper	48 M	Farmer	225	75
Joseph Smith	24 M	Farmer	--	150
Daniel Fowler	36 M	Farmer	--	--
John Puckett	73 M	Mechanic	--	--
James M. Bishop	27 M	Att-At-Law	--	--
William G. Russell	45 M	Miner	13500	500
John Cearnes	27 M	Farmer	--	80
Reuben H. Pierce	50 M	Miner	--	200
William Holtzclaw	32 M	Farmer	--	300
Elias Holtzclaw	30 M	Farmer	--	75
James Beavers	41 M	Mechanic	--	--
Laurech Chambers	46 M	Miner	--	150
Barrack Chambers	25 M	Miner	--	--
James West	32 M	Farmer	--	--
John R. Russell	33 M	Miner	6800	500
William Perry	62 M	Farmer	--	150
Hugh McAfee	56 M	Farmer	2000	846
Levi Russell	26 M	Physician	--	--

Ester Fricks	60 F	--	--	--
John Fricks	46 M	Farmer	--	70
Thomas Hyde	60 M	Farmer	80	50
Benjamin F.Colman	29 M	Miner	--	--
Elias Braden	45 M	Miller	300	250
Sarah Lawless	64 F	--	--	--
Jackson Moore	22 M	Day Laborer	--	--
John A. McClure	40 M	Farmer	11500	900
James Godfrey	63 M	Mechanic	--	--
Jeptha Talley	41 M	Farmer	5000	1000
Henry C. Thompson	30 M	Farmer	10000	2000
David J. Roe	41 M	Farmer	13400	1000
Susan Jackson	70 F	--	--	--
William Barnwell	37 M	Farmer	--	100

The only 1860 census for the slaves was a list of slave owners with the number of slaves and number of houses for the slave families.

Below is a list of the Slave Owners in Dawson County in 1860

Blacks District (Slave Owners)

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
James M. Cobb	3	3
Joseph W. Looper	7	2
Stephen Cantrell	8	2
John Palmer	4	2
Robert N. McClure	5	1
Hugh Tatum	4	1
Gazaway Cheek	5	2
Aaron Roper	10	2
Hiram Richardson	1	1

Total: 28 Male 19 Female

Yellow Creek District (Slave Owners

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
Martha Hill	**1**	**--**
Eliza Yarbrough	**1**	**--**
J.H. & J.L. Heard	**4**	**1**
William L. Reynolds	1	1
Alfred Webb	22	5
David Hill	4	2
Lewis J. Ledbetter	1	--
Johnson Ledbetter	6	1
Augustus Williams	1	--
Nancy Holcomb	1	--

Total: 21 Male 21 Female

Barretts District (Slave Owners

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
Preston J. Clark	9	2
Andrew J. Thompson	27	5
James Hill	1	--
John Hockenhull	9	1
Phillip Cantrell	2	1

Total: 25 Male 23 Female

Kilough District (Slave Owners

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
Thomas Stowers	2	2
Stephen B. Kitchen	1	--
John B Graham	2	1
Silus Palmer	19	3

Total: 10 Male 14 Female

Gilmer District (Slave Owners

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
Nathaniel H. Goss	12	2
John Langston	9	--
Martin Lawman	2	--

Total: 10 Male 13 Female

Shoal Creek District (Slave Owners)

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
James J. Burt	8	1
Benjamin W. Payne	2	1

Total: 4 Male 6 Female

Amicalola District (Slave Owners

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
John L. Summerour	10	3
Benjamin Goss	3	1
Zion Spriggs	5	3
Alexander Spriggs	1	1

Total: 12 Male 7 Female

Dawsonville District (Slave Owners

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
Reuben Burt. 1	1	
Henry Howser	1	1
D. H. Logan [Gar. For Bro & Sis]	6	--
Horatio Tatum	1	--
John Wallis	2	--
John Hockenhull	1	--
Charles Hockenhull	2	1
Mijemin Manning	1	1
William Barrett	1	--

Total: 6 Male 10 Female

Sanford District (Slave Owners)

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
Raymond Sanford	15	2
Wright Williams	10	2
Edward Riley	1	--
William Bird	2	--
Margaret Oliver	7	2

Total: 17 Male 18 Female

Savannah District (Slave Owners

Name of Owner	Number of Slaves	Number of Houses
Mikel Haycock	1	--
Silus Palmer	13	2
William G. Russell	5	2
John R. Russell	4	1
John McClure	14	2
Henry C. Thompson	11	2
David J. Roe	14	3

Total: 31 Male 31 Female

Total Slaves: 326
Slave Owners: 58

The mortality list for the county in 1860 shows a dysentery epidemic in Savannah with only one physician and one medical student in the county; so the families had to care for their own.

Below is the 1860 Mortality List for Dawson County District including many stillborn/infant deaths in the county. The 1860 census shows:

Amicalola District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Infant Harbin	F	--	--	May	Still Born
Joseph E. Garmon	M	2/12	--	March	Whooping Cough
Theodosia Spriggs	F	62	--	April	Pneumonia
Slave	M	45	Mulatto	April	Diabetes
Loucinda C. Green	F	4	--	Oct.	Diphtheria
Mary E. Denny	F	13	--	April	Head Pleurisy
Infant Lively	F	3/365	--	Aug	Sudden

Dawsonville District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Lidia M. Payne	F	43	--	April	Unknown
Benson Barron	M	--	--	July	Still Born

John J. Hix	M	1/12	--	May	Unknown
Richard Howard	M	48	--	May	Dispepsia
William H. Hockenhull	M. 3/12	--	Feb	Unknown	
Manervia Hyde	F	2	--	Sept	Scarlet Fever
Malinda F. Barrett	F	2	--	July	Scarlet Fever

Gilmer District.

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Jessee Webb Reece	M	1	--	Dec	Unknown
Selah Farriba	F	75	--	Aug	Unknown
James M. Lowman	M	1	--	Aug	Unknown

Blacks District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Infant Smith	M	--	--	May	Still Born
Infant Rolin	F	--	--	Dec	Still Born
Henry Wallis	M	1	--	Feb	Unknown
Mary E. Cannon	F	1	--	July	Dysentery

Kilough District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Infant Henry	M	1/12	--	Oct	Sudden
Cassey Mullinax	F	27	--	May	Unknown
James Smith	M	1	--	Dec	Sudden Burned

Yellow Creek District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Ssaph Hill	M	54	--	Aug	Billious Fever
James E. Heard	M	5/12	--	June	Croup
Susan Covington	F	5	--	Oct	Diphtheria
Slave	M	2	Black	Oct	Croup
Infant Porter	M	3/365	--	Nov	Unknown
Lewis B. Thompson	M	4	--	Oct	Diphtheria
Rebecca M. Kerby	F	19	--	Aug	Typhoid Fever

Purdies District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Infant Thaxton	F	--	--	March	Still Born
David L. McDonald	M	88	--	May	Unknown
Infant Brooks	M	--	--	April	Still Born
James Young	M	80	--	Dec	Liver Compliant

Savannah District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Nancy L. Nix	F	17	--	July	Pneumonia
William P. Dickson	M	9/12	--	July	Dysentery
Joseph Wilson	M	2	--	June	Dysentery
Thomas Russell	M	3	--	July	Dysentery
Benjamin Russell	M	10/12	--	July	Dysentery
Slave	F	3	Black	July	Dysentery
Lenord Chambers	M	12	--	Sept	Dysentery
James Whitley	M	1	--	Sept	Unknown
Francis G. Russell	M	4	--	July	Dysentery
Slave	F	1	Black	July	Dysentery
Charles Russell	M	1	--	Sept	Dysentery
Joseph Talley	M	1	--	April	Dysentery
Robert B. McClure	M	66	--	Dec	Typhoid Pneumonia

Barrett District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Sarah Edwards	F	3	--	Oct	Croup
Nancy Ashworth	F	30	--	April	Sudden
Infant Taylor	--	--	--	March	Still Born
Nancy Tomlin	F	1	Mulatto/Free	Jan	Sudden Burned

Sanford District

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Month of Death	Cause of Death
Loucinda Cantrell	F	4/12	--	Oct	Bronchitis
John Smith	M	70	--	May	Sudden

The Civil War stopped the building of the county when the men answered the call to service leaving the remaining men, women and children struggling just to survive.

Chapter Three

The American Civil War, known as the War Between the States or simply the Civil War, was fought from 1861 to 1865 in the United States after several southern states (known as slave states) declared their secession and formed the Confederate States of America. The states that remained were known as the Union or the North. The war had its origin in the fractious issue of slavery. Foreign powers did not intervene. Four years of bloody combat left over 600,000 men dead and destroyed most of the South's infrastructure. The Confederacy collapsed, slavery was abolished, and the difficult reconstruction process began to restore national unity and guarantee rights to the freed slaves.

These are some of the item that was used in the war. On loan to the Dawson County Historical Society

Joseph Brown began his first term as governor on November 6, 1857, and was reelected for a second term in 1859. By 1860, the secession, slavery, and states rights were the main issues, and by January 1861, South Carolina had withdrawn from the Union. On January 16, 1861, under Governor Joseph Brown's leadership, Georgia seceded from the Union. Civil War began April 12, 1861, with the first shots being fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina by the Southern troops.

Dawson County had just been formed and the citizens were getting underway with building their county when the Civil War started. The men answered the call to defend their homes and newly formed country. The following information is in the Georgia State Archives, Civil War Correspondence, 1847- 1865:

Dawson County men started getting prepared with an election for officers for a volunteer company made in said county, to be styled the Dawson County Light Cavalry Company on May 18, 1861. According to record: "We the Undersigned Superintendents of said election do certify that Priestley E. Willis was duly elected Captain of said company; Robert N. McClure, 1st Lieutenant; George Roper, 2nd Lieutenant; David McAfee, 3rd Lieutenant. There are a total of 41 men listed, along with a tally sheet showing number of votes. Signed May 18, 1861, by John Fouts, James L. Baird and A. J. Logan.

We the undersigned superintendents of an election held this day in said county for the purpose of electing for a military Volunteers Company of Inf. to be called the Mountain Blues for the purpose of defending the rights of the south when called upon by the proper authorities, do certify that Samuel C. Johnson was duly elected Captain of said company; James L. Baird, 1st Lieutenant; Elias Darnel, 2nd Lieutenant; John C. Richardson, 3rd Lieutenant as will show by reference of the within tally sheet of voters at said election given under our hands and official signature this 25th day of May 1861.

There are a total of 30 men named, along with tally sheet showing number of votes.

Signed May 25th 1861, by John Fouts, Justice of the Peace; C. J. Purdy, F.H., and D. P. Monroe,

F.H.

The war brought hardships to the people of the new county in a lot of ways. Dawson County was fortunate in that it was spared the terrible fighting which took place in other parts of the state, but sent quite a few of its sons to fight and die in distant battles. Those left behind by their husbands, brothers and fathers suffered the hardship of trying to raise enough food for their families and farm animals.

In answer to Georgia's governor's call for troops to defend both Georgia and the Confederate States of America, men formed companies, battalions, and other military units in counties throughout the state. This included muster rolls for each Militia District, lists of men subject to militia duty (men ages 18– 45), and lists of men over 45. The following is for the 102nd Regt. Georgia Militia, Dawson County, dated March 4, 1862:

Muster Rolls—Men Subject to Military Duty from 1860–1864 can be found in Morrow, Georgia, at the State Archives showing lists of men by each militia district of Dawson County.

Purdy Georgia Militia District No. 1180

The officers for this unit are listed as: William Holtzclaw, Captain; William L. McDonald, 1st Lieutenant; C. J. Purdy, 2nd Lieutenant; and William Nelson, 3rd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as Aaron Brooks, John Chumbley, William Crimes, Calvin Heard, Ausburn Herring, Asa Hyde, George Martin, Lewis McDonald, Thomas N. Purdy, William Steel, Horatio Tatum, John Tatum, Christopher Young, David Whitley and John Whitley.

Kilough Georgia Militia District No. 1023

The officers for this unit are listed as: James B. Byers, Captain; William L Byers, 1st Lieutenant; and Alexander Henry, 2nd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as James Barker, Alfred Byers, William M. Clark, William Forbes, Brazils Griffin, Thomas J. Griffin, David Henry, Singleton Henry, Stephen B. Kitchens, Silas B. Palmer, Amos G. Roberson, Clark W. Smith, John R. S. Smith, Egequarhis B. Stone, Marcus A. Stone, Calvin K. Stover, Thomas Stowers, Josephus E. Turner, and Jeremiah William.

Sanford Georgia Militia District No. 820

The officer for this unit is listed as John W. Taylor, 1st Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as William W. Barnwell, William Bennett, Thomas I. Bird, William F. Cantrell, A. Childers, William C. Dobbs, F. B. Duncan, H.S. Grant, William B. Hudlow, William Herrin, John Miller, Hiram O'Shields, Thomas V. Rives, James Smith, Richard Smith, Joshua T. J. Stewart, Bailey Stripland, Robert Turner, and John Westbrook.

Amicalola Georgia Militia District No. 830

The officers for this unit are listed as: Tyre Harbin, Captain; Benjamin F. Goss, 1st Lieutenant; Richard Grogan, 2nd Lieutenant; and Balaam Harbin, 3rd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as Nelson Bearden, Roland M. Bearden, Martin P. Berry, William Chester, Gilford Clayton, George W. Clark, Francis M. Cochran, George Cochran, George W. Cochran, Jacob Cochran, James Cochran, John Cochran, Van Buren Cochran, Henry Cooper, Elisa Denny, Willis S. Garmon, Wilson H. Garmon, William Glenn, James L. Grigg, John H. Grogan, William D. Grogan, Edward Grun, John Grun, William W. Grun, Benjamin Harbin, James Harbin, Jesse M. Harbin, John Harbin, Nathaniel W. Harbin, Samuel Harbin, James P. Howard, James A. Lawrence, John Lingerfelt, Jacob Mathis, James Mathis, John Mathis, Lewis Mathis, William Mathis, Isaac E. McClure, John M. McClure, William W. Morris, John B. Norris, Archibald Prince, John Rice, Emanuel Rudisill, John Rudisil, John Sheffield, Eber Smith, Harvey Smith, Oliver B. Watkins, James M. West, James R.

Wehunt, and William Wehunt.

Shoal Creek Georgia Militia District No. 916

The officers for this unit are listed as: Elijah Blackburn, Captain, and Peter Rice, 1st Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as William Anderson, Daniel Andrews, J. T. Andrews, J. Bearden, Hiram Bennett, Robert Bennett, H. W. Blackburn, J. W. Blackburn, M. A. Brook, C. G. Burt, Bishop Green, Monroe Green, Henry Hix, James Howell, R. Payne, D. Rice, John Scroggins, D. W. Summon, A. Starnes, Gordon Strickland, W. D. Strickland, J. M. Thackerton, and Lindsey Vaughter.

Savannah Georgia Militia District No. 932

The officers for this unit are listed as: John W. Callis, Captain; Pickens E. Willis, 1st Lieutenant; Barah Chambers, 2nd Lieutenant; and Elias Holtzclaw, 3rd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as Henry Carlisle, John Cearnes, Tandy J. Cearnes, William W. Cearnes, Joseph M. Chambers, Lemuel Chambers, Phillip Chambers, Benjamin F. Coleman, George Dunaway, Newton Y. Free, William Free, Calvin J. Lawless, Robert McClure, Jackson Moore, Gabriel Morris, David Roe, Thomas Rhodes, Joseph D. Rouse, E. Z. Shelton, Jefferson Shelton, Asa Telley, Jeptha Talley and James West.

Gilmer Cut-Off Georgia Militia District No. 979

The officers for this unit are listed as: John M. Langston, Captain; Dempsey Seay, 1st Lieutenant; S. Holden, 2nd Lieutenant; and Samuel M. Densmore, 3rd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as Ellison Callahan, William B. Callahan, Calvin Cantrell, Benjamin Clonts, David Densmore, Jr., William S. Densmore, John H. Dilbeck, James Farabee, Calvin Goss, John Goss, John T. Green, John L. Grogan, Perry W. Grogan, William Grogan, Harrell Padgett, Jacob Padgett, John Padgett, Evin P. Perry, Decatur Pettit, Jasper M. Pettit, James Reece, James M. Reece, William M. Reece, David Ruddle, James Ruddle and Jesse F. Satterfield.

Yellow Creek Georgia Militia District No. 989

The officers for this unit are listed as: D. S. Pettitt, Captain; George Hudlow, 1st Lieutenant; Green L. Hamby, 2nd Lieutenant; and Anderson Hill, 3rd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as John Beam, Richard S. Blackstock, James M. Carver, Henry Chancellor, John Chumbly, John H. Covington, Sr., John H. Covington, Jr., John C. Crumbly, E. J. Hamby, John A Heard, D. M. Hill, John Hollinshead, Vann Howard, James Huggins, H. S. Jones, Joseph Ledbetter, O. D. Ledbetter, B. L. Logan, James McCarver, Benjamin Mealon, S. L. Monroe, William V. Nicholos, William Pike, William Ray, John Smith, J. D. Smith, Oliver Smith, Thomas Smith, William P. Smith and D. S. Tanner.

Black Georgia Militia District No. 1016

The officers for this unit are listed as: Robert N. McClure, Captain; John Palmour, 1st Lieutenant; David Woodall, 2nd Lieutenant; and Joseph L. Black, 3rd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as Henry S. Bird, William J. Bruce, Francis M. Byers, Irby Cannon, John Crey, Isaac J. Eliott, Daniel L. Freeman, John Glass, William Godfrey, Daniel E. Hammond, Jesse Hendrix, Asberry Jackson, William Looper, Buford Mayson, J. M. S. McClelland, William H. Richardson, Thomas Rowland, Tillman Roland, Andrew S. Smith, Joseph Smith, Virgil R. Smith, Robert F. Stephen, David J. Wallis, William Wallis, Frederick Wehunt, James White, Madison Whitmire, John M. Wood, George Woodall, Joberry Woodall and John Woodall.

Barretts Georgia Militia District No. 1022

The officers for this unit are listed as: Zion Spriggs, Captain; Alfred M. Jackson, 1st Lieutenant; and John M. Boling, 2nd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as John R. Barrett, Robert M. Barrett, Wade H. Barrett, Andrew G. Beck, William J. Beck, Jeremiah W. Bogges, John S. Boyd, William S. Dooley, Joseph Gaddis, Wesley Hamby, Alford Hardin, Thomas Hardin, Berry Herring, James P. Hockenhull, Burdine Hollingshead, Benjamin Hope, Robert H. Jackson, Thomas Kelly, Warren M. Maberry, Burdine Martin, Isaac McGhee, John S. Moss, Larkin W. Prince, Martin V. Prince, Benjamin F. Pruitt, James T. Pruitt, George C. Roper, William B. Roper, Jasper N. Shoemaker, William T. Shoemaker, Gideon Smith, Andrew J. Thompson, William E. C. Vandiver and Martin Wood.

Dawsonville Georgia Militia District No. 1178

The officers for this unit are listed as: David J. Burt, Major Commanding; William Kelly, Captain First Company; S. D. Martin, 1st Lieutenant; John Quarles, 2nd Lieutenant; and Samuel Garner, 3rd Lieutenant.

The privates in this unit are listed as James P. Anderson, Robert N. Anderson, Richard L Ayres, Jarrett Bannister, Caleb Barron, William R. Bell, Davis Bird, John Bird, Joseph Bird, Andrew Blassengame, William Blassengame, Moses M. Burt, John Carlisle, William A. Carney, William Cray, William J. Cray, Elias Darnell, James W. Durham, Sylvester Edwards, Samuel R. Findley, Daniel Fowler, Daniel M. Fowler, William R. Hix, Calvin Holcomb, Lawson H. Hope, Henry Howser, Andrew Hyde, Jesse I. Hyde, Samuel C. Johnson, John Kelly, Jesse I. Kelly, Pollard Kelly, Green Leseneer, Jerry M.M. Martin, John Martin, Virgil D. Monroe, Benjamin Morrison, Reuben Parten, James Rice, Henry Roach, George R. Robinson, William R. Sluter, Felix G. Smith, William Starnes, Elias Tucker, Tandy W. Turner and William C. Wallis.

The following Confederate Units were raised in Dawson County. As you look at the list of men in each regiment, you may find that they might be listed in more than one. They could return home for different reasons, and then at a later date return to another regiment or the same one.

21st Regiment, Georgia Infantry, Company E, Concord Rangers
22nd Regiment, Georgia Infantry, Company I, Dawson County Independents
38th Regiment, Georgia Infantry, Company I, (Wright's Legion) Dawson Farmers
38th Regiment, Georgia Infantry, Company L, (Wright's Legion)
52nd Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Company I

Muster Roll - Concord Rangers 21st Regiment, Georgia Infantry, Company E

- Note: Mustered in at Concord Baptist Church on April 11, 1864.

The officer for this unit is listed as John A. Ashworth, 3rd Corporal.

The privates in this unit are listed as William Ashworth, John Bagwell, Columbus Banister, James Banister, Allen Blackstock, William J. Cain, Milton L. Clark, Sylvanus C. Copeland, William C. Copeland, Marion L. Cox, Jacob A. Crocker, John H. Dooley, John R. Elliott, Thomas J. Ellis, Uriah Fuller, Benjamin G. Hamby, David Terrell Harris, John Harris, William O. Head, William Henson, Young J. Jones, Alfred W. Julian, Michael S. Julian, Robert M. Julian, Benjamin Lamb, Lewis Johnson Ledbetter, Elisha Lee, Charles B. Martin, George W. McBrayer, William H. McClure, William P. Milford, Goodman L. Mitchell, Harvey M. Pruitt, James Rakestraw, Lipshie Rakestraw, Efford Seay, John B. Seay, Ransom Seay, John W. Shoemaker, Edward T. Smith, Henry Stidman, John Stowers, Taliaferro E. L. Stripland, Isaac Tracker, James M. Thacker, Lewis Thomas, John P. Turner, Lemuel L. Turner, William C. Turner, Drury Meeks Walls, William L. Walls, Marcus L. Wilkins, George Wofford

and Luke Wood.

Muster Roll - 22nd Regiment, Company I, Georgia Volunteer Infantry
- Note: This unit is listed as **Dawson County Guards, Dawson County Independents** and **Dawson Light Infantry.**

The officers for this unit are listed as: Priestly E. Willis, Captain; Joseph McAfee, 1st Lieutenant; Robert Houser, 2nd Lieutenant; George L. Edwards, Jr., 2nd Lieutenant; William Hamilton McAfee, Chaplain; Charles A. McAfee, 1st Sergeant; P.P. Martin, 2nd Sergeant; James Tatum, 3rd Sergeant; Samuel M. Fowler, 4th Sergeant; James M. Bishop, 1st. Corporal; John W. Bowlin, 2nd Corporal; John T. Godfrey, 3rd Corporal; and Andrew J. Green, 4th Corporal.

The privates in this unit are listed as Richard Barnett, W. G. Barrett, James M. Beavers, Robert W. Beck, James W. Bond, W. F. Bonds, Benjamin Boswell, C. C. Boswell, G. F. Boswell, William H. Bottoms, James M. Bowlin, Harrison Boyd, F. Marion Bruce, J. M. Bruce, W. J. Bruce, Francis M. Byers, R. H. Byers, George W. Carlisle, Harvey M. Charles, John L. Clark, Wiley P. Coker, James M. Day, H.C. Dickson, James M. Dickson, Joseph A. Durham, John R. Edwards, John N. Fletcher, J. C. Fowler, J. H. Freeman, John Lumpkin Gaydon, Phineas Gaydon, William Gaydon, Bynum Gentry, B. F. Haney, William l. Harden, J. W. Haithcock, Burdine V. Hollenshead, L. S. Hughes, Andrew J. Hulsey, G. W. Hulsey, Joseph Hulsey, Allison Lee, W. H. Lyon, Asa Mark Mabry, E. Mark Mabry, S. C. Mabry, Jasper M. Martin, S. D. Martin, W. G. McAfee, James McClain, William W. McGinnis, J. W. McGuire, James H. Mullinax, J. O. Mullinax, Andrew H. Newton, Wilson L. Palmour, Richard S. Payne, R. E. Payne, Andy Pinyan, Sr., John R. Pinyan, J. H. Pinyan, L. F. Pinyan, W. L. Pirch, F. M. Reese, Sol D. Reese, C. J. Robinson, John B. Robinson, J. W. Robinson, Leroy Robinson, Adolphus Shelton, James Jackson Staton, Henry C. Smith, M. M. Smith, Henry Stedman, G. W. Steel, Clark W. Stewart, James J. Stone, Z. P. Stone, C. D. Sullivan, W. N. Whitley, William H. Whitmore, William J. Whitmore, James Wigley, Simeon Wigley, John A. Wilson, and Winchester Woods.

Muster Roll - 38th Regiment, Georgia Infantry, Company L, (Wright's Legion) Note: This company was commissioned Chestatee Artillery September 30, 1861, by order of CSA War Department and was ordered by Wright's Legion to report to Camp Kirkpatrick, Dawson County Georgia.

The officers for this unit are listed as: Thomas H. Bomar, Captain; Truman H Sanford, 1st Lieutenant; Samuel E. Taylor, 2nd, Lieutenant; John C. Hendrix, Jr., 2nd Lieutenant; William Hendrix, 1st Sergeant; John Green, 2nd Sergeant; John Childers, Sr., 3rd Sergeant, Robert A. Mooney, 4th Sergeant; Harden Jordan, 5th Sergeant; Moses C. Cannon, 6th Sergeant; James O. McKinney, 1st Corporal; Horatio R. Tatum, 2nd Corporal; Harrison G. Smith, 3rd Corporal; John Norrell, 4th Corporal; Enoch Patterson, 5th Corporal; William E. Robinson, 6th Corporal; Joseph P. Wood, Guidon; Frederick Fisher, Musician; F. Augustus Mendez, Musician; and Seaborn Campbell, Artificer.

The privates in this unit are listed as Theodore M. Andoe, Jasper Joseph Baxter, Hugh L. Bell, Elijah B. Bennett, J. Masser Bennett, William J. Bennett, James S. Bolton, O.P. Booker, Francis Bowen, John A. Boyd, Robert Boyd, Daniel Pinkney Brice, John R. Brice, Thomas J. Brice, John C. Brittain, John C. Brown, George W. Burns, George S. Campbell, Samuel Cantrell, William F. Cantrell, William Carver, James R. Charlton, Sylvester Cheek, Abraham O. Childers, John Childers, Jr., Samuel Childers, William Childers, William Jackson Childers, David Clarke, George W. Cogburn, W. D. Condon, Solomon F. Crane, William H. Crane, William A. Crawford, Isaac Crow, James Dacus, James A. Dacus, John Dacus, Paschal Hawkins Dacus, William Ryal Dacus, H. Thomas Daniel, J. W. Daniel, Edward C. Dean, Thomas W. Dean, W. C. Dobbs, Tyler Dunlap, James Dunn, W. H. Elliott, Charles M. Elrod, John Freeman, Andrew Jackson Garrett, Benjamin Franklin Garrett, George W. Garrett, Hosea Garrett, John

B. Gibson, Roger Green, William P. Hall, A. J. Hardeman, B. F. Hardin, David J. Harris, Ezekiel L. Henderson, R. Daniel Henderson, Prater Hendrix, Early Hubbard, Joseph O. Hubbard, Swancey Hubbard, William W. Hubbard, Drury B. Hutchins, Samuel C. Johnson, Joseph L. Jones, S. B. Kitchens, James F. Lane, Pleasant Green Light, Irwin Loggins, William M. Maloney, James H. Martin, Bluford Mason, Merrell Mason, Bailey D. Massingill, E. B. McDaniel, Ira O. McDaniel, Phillip S. McDaniel, R. S. McDaniel, William L McKinney, John Miller, Robert Monk, James H. Mooney, William Oliver Mooney, Henry S. Morgan, Simeon Morgan, William R. Morgan, Michael Murphy, William F. Neal, Lindsey D. Oliver, David O'Shields, Hiram O'Shields, Pinkney O'Shields, A. J. Owen, Francis Marion Owen, George W. Owen, Isaac Newton Owen, Jesse P. Owen, John H. Owen, Thomas A. Owen, William A. Owen, William Christopher Owen, William Jasper Owen, Reuben Partin, Hiram Patterson, John D. Patterson, Joshua Patterson, Samuel Patterson, Charles T. Perry, W. H. Perry, D. A. Perryman, J.T. Pharr, Edward W. Phillips, James M. Phillips, J. F. Pigean, H. W. Porter, Joseph Porter, A. P. Prater, Benjamin G. Prater, J. H. Robinson, Raymond B. Sanford, John A. Satterfield, James Monroe Shiftlet, Pyremus W. Singleton, Clark W. Smith, Richard R. Smith, William M. Smith, John R. Stephens. Lewis A. Stephens, George W. Stovall, W. B. Stripland, Willis W. Stroud, Elisha Tatum, Moses Tatum, Silas E. Tatum, C. P. Taylor, George T. Taylor, James S. Taylor, John M. Taylor, Mulchy M. Taylor, Samuel Taylor, William H. Taylor, B. R. Touchstone, Bennett D. Tuck, George W. Watson, Harrison Watson, Richmond Watson, Samuel Westbrook, William R. Westbrook, Alfred L. Wetherford, Elias E. Whitmire, Elisha M. Whitmire, George C. Whitmire, James Christopher Whitmire, John A. Whitmire, Radcliffe Boone Whitmire, Samuel R. Whitmire, W. Reeves Whitmire, Robert T. Wilson, John D. Wofford and William H. Wood.

Muster Roll - 52nd Regiment, Company I, Dawson County, Georgia Volunteer Infantry

The officers for this unit are listed as: John R. Russell, Captain; Robert N. McClure, 1st Lieutenant; Andrew J. Logan, 2nd Lieutenant; Oliver P. Hyde, Jr., 2nd Lieutenant; Reuben Harrison Pierce, 1st Sergeant; George B. Hudlow, 2nd Sergeant; Richard G. Grogan, 3rd Sergeant; Isaac E. McClure, 4th Sergeant; William J. Beck, 1st Corporal; William Lumpkin Ray, 2nd Corporal; Alexander Henry, 3rd Corporal; William S. Densmore, 4th Corporal; James E. Cobb, Musician; and Jane Pettett, Laundress.

The privates in this unit are listed as Jarrett Banister, William Barrett, John Beam, Andrew J. Beck, William R. Bell, W. B. Bell, Martin P. Berry, Andrew Blasingame, William E. Blasingame, William Burgess, James B. Byers, John Byrd, Joseph Byrd, William A. Carney, Joseph Marion Chambers, Phillips Chambers, William Chester, George W. Clarke, William M. Clarke, William Clayton, Henry Cooper, John H. Covington, Jr., Lewis Thomas P. Covington, Zachariah H. Cox, William M. Crymes, Abram B. Daniel, David Densmore, Jr., Samuel M. Densmore, Elias F. Dilbeck, Nathaniel Danger, George Dunaway, Daniel M. Fowler, James A. Garman, Larkin F. Garman, Willis S. Garman, Wilson H. Garman, Samuel Garner, Calvin B. Goss, Edward Green, James Green, John Green, John F. Green, John T. Green, Lewis R. Green, William W. Green, Brazille Griffin, James L. Griggs, Perry J. Grogan, Marion K. Hall, Ezekiel Hamby, James Hamby, John W. Hamby, David Henry, John A. Herrin, William R. Hix, Andrew Hodgin, Calvin Holcombe, James P. Howard, William B. Hudlow, Daniel T. Hyde, Jesse J. Hyde, Robert H. Jackson, Hazel S. Jones, Thomas Kelley, John M. Langston, Newton A. Lawson, Ozias D. Ledbetter, David H. Logan, William H. Looper, Silas W. Lovelady, George W. Martin, Benjamin F. McCurry, Benjamin F. Mealer, William B. Miller, Samuel L. Monroe, Virgil D. Monroe, John S. Moss, Wilson J. Nelson, William V. Nichols, John B. Norris, James H. Odom, Jacob Padgett, John Padget, William Padget, Evan P. Perry, Decatur Pettett, Elias Pettett, Jasper M. Pettett, Richard L. Pettett, Levi R. Pierce, Roberson L. Pierce, William Pike, William M. Puckett, William M. Reece, William P. Reynolds, John B. Robinson, George C. Roper, Jesse F. Satterfield, Dempsey Seay, Efford Seay, Ezekiel F. Shelton, Newton Jasper Shoemaker, William T. Shoemaker, Felix G. Smith,

Gideon H. Smith, Marshall L. Smith, Oliver Smith, William Starnes, Egenordemus B. Stone, Marcus A. Stone, Calvin K. Stover, Joseph Sutton, William L. Sutton, David S. Tanner, James P. Turner, Joseph B. Turner, J. A. Turner, Robert A. Turner, James West, David Whitley, John Whitley, Jeremiah Williams, Pickens E. Willis, Joberry Woodall, John Woodall and Robert Woodall.

The lists above are incomplete as some of the men from Dawson County joined companies made up of men from nearby communities. Some of these soldiers were included in Company H (later redesigned as Company F), 65th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, known as Smith's Legion, which was made up primarily of men from Lumpkin and White counties. Others joined Company C, 11th Battalion, Georgia Infantry State Guard, Company A, Smith's Legion. The men who were drafted later were absorbed into units that had already been formed.

News from the soldiers was scarce but a couple of letters from Rebekah Wilson's file of wartime letters were published in the *Dawson County Advertiser & News* during October 1997. The letters were written to Thomas Stowers in Dawson County from his friend William Cox. The letters are copied as written and give a picture of the war from a soldier's view.

Camp Walker Georgia

Jan. 8, 1862

I take my pen in hand to drop you a few lines to let you no that i have ben in veary bad helth for the last tow weeks but i am recovering veary fast and i think i will able to drill in a few days and lord knows that i will be one of the gladest humans in the world shurley when peas is made if it is ever made i hope that theas few lines will find you all well and Doing well i wold like to see you and in hopes that i will get back Safely that i ma see you again thare is a rite smart prospect of a fight i heard firing of canens yesterday so it thought that wee will have fighting to do Sure my cough getting beter I think that it will get well yet if i take cear of myself and as for cloathing i think i can make out by buyig som shirts i think that well see a harder time a cout Something to eat than any thing els if ever i live to get back they never will get me back hear any more without they cary me not Becase i am afrade of the Yankees for i ant afrade of them thare is a heap of sickness hear it does not agree with me to be in camps at al i had heap rather work I the field or whear els than to be hear tell Charley that i wold be glad to be thare to cary my row with him for he was a rit Smart company to me i am in to muth company hear to Sute me i have been a good deal but it is not mutch Satssfaction to me i want you to write ma as (soon) as you get this but it is iposable for me to rite much for the post office is five miles from hear and wee have to have a pass if we go more that a quarter of a mile i cant rite to you often So i have nothing mutch to right So I will come to a close direct your leter to Savannah Po office Chastan rig camp Walker in cear of Capt Craven

So i remain affectionate frind unto death

William Cox

Grave Marker of William Cox Harmony Church Cemetery in Dawson County, Georgia 1838 - 1941.

Camp Jackson
Chatham County Georgia
Febrary the 1 1862

I take my pen in hand to rite you a few lines to let you now that i am well and well anugh Satsfide and i hope that theas few lines will find you all enjoying helth i wold be glad to See you all and i think that wee will all be discharged by the first of Marh if the Yankees don't cill us all wee are expecting to have a fight every day now if they do i will be in one if nothing happens i think i load and Shoot as fast as any body all I dread is that i faer that our mess is so award that they will cill each other wee wer not mustered in onley for six months wee had a purty harde march day befour yesterday it was not veary far but the weather warm and our loads were heavy i cant put a leter to gether good nor rite onegood i cant tell you any thing much for i never know anything Still wee are right in to it wee are all anches for a fight thare was severl that was not able to when they heard wee had to drill march Severl of them that was first for the march so i think wee will do what we do perty shortly thare was some of our picket out on routs the other day and roused Some of the Yankees picketts and burned up thare tents and got theare canteens our time is half out So if they wont us to do any fighting that had Beter put us purty quick at it nobody cant hear the truth four inches hear i don't how it is up with you i think that thare is troops anugh round a bout Savannah to whip forty 1000 Yankees So i ant got nuting much we have plent to eat i was veary glad to get that you sent me them peaces of potery (poultry?) and i think that John has improved the fasts that i ever seen i wont you to rite to me i wold like to hear from all of the connections thare is a good many new things hear to be seen So i will come to a close tell Stephen Kitchens that M F Kitchens is well i have not had the chance to talk to him any for the time is purty full for wee have to be right ready to grab our guns So ill close for the time i remain your affectionate frind to death

Thomas Stowers *William Cox*

Many of the soldiers listed above have descendants still living in and owning property in Dawson County. James Swafford provided the following information about his great-great-great grandfather

Nathaniel W. Harben who died with typhoid fever at Chattanooga, Tennessee, in the Confederate Army on July 24, 1862:

"Upon the outbreak of war Nat along with his brothers Balaam, Benjamin, Samuel and Jesse, traveled to Cherokee County to enlist in the Confederate Army. James and John, two other brothers, joined a year later. Records reveal that Nat enlisted on May 10, 1862, for a period of three years. Because he was 31 years old at the time, Nat had to lie about his age in order to be accepted. He claimed to have been only 24 years old at the time.

"Nat's rank was that of private in the 3rd Cavalry Company F under Captain Fowler and Col. M. J. Crawford. Records show that his horse was valued at $ 275.00 and his equipage valued at $ 25.00. It was barely one year later, while serving in Chattanooga, Tennessee, that he was struck with typhoid fever. He died on July 24, 1862, in the service of his country. The story does not end there, however. Word reached Dawsonville that summer of 1862 that a Harben from Georgia had died. Concerned that it might be one of their husbands, Martha, her two-year-old son James, and Samuel's wife, Narcissa, traveled to Chattanooga. While there Martha realized her worst fear. They retrieved the remains of Nathaniel and began the long journey home.

Nathaniel W. Harben 1830-1862
James Swafford Collection

"The summer was hot, and the roads were long and rocky through the North Georgia hills. As they passed through one small town after another, on-lookers would be repulsed by the odor of the decaying soldier. One of the ladies would follow behind their wagon shoveling dirt over the corruption that drained from the hastily made pine coffin. Despite their hardships, Martha, Narcissa, and little James finally made it home to Dawsonville. They buried their loved one in the place where he rests today, the New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery in northern Dawson County."

G. A. Hill penned a poem to honor Nat Harben. (Typed as written)

My days are passing swiftly by.
I soon must drop this clay,
And in silent dust mustly,
Till the great Judgment day.

I once enjoyed the charms of home.
Which was my hearts delight, But
far away I had to roam. Which did
my pleasures blight.

My country called I did comply.
Her right to help montain. I lay
my earthly pleasures by. To go
with a campaign.

When at home I could not stay;

Emotion in me rose,
Adiu to all I haste away
To meet invading foes.

Three loving babes a friendly
wife, And parents good and kind.
Which were the greatest boon of life,
I had to leave behind.

Three brothers true and kind to
me. Stand around my dying bed.
That they may some assistance be,
Or raise my feeble head.

Dear brother, you cannot help me now.
All human aid is past.
The sweat of death is on my brow;
My limbs grow weaker fast.

I know you are loth to see me die.
So far away from home.
But I shall reign above the skie.
While you the desert roam.

Don't grieve for me my brothers
dear. While I am in the clay.
Your drooping minds my Heaven cheer.
While here on earth you stay.

My dear companion Martha Jane;
I bid you farewell.
Awhile on earth you must remain.
While I in Heaven dwell.

Your loving face I will see no more,
While in flesh you stay.
I'll meet you on fair Canoan's shore.
In one eternal day.

Oh, Martha don't you grieve for me.
Neither weep nor sign.
For I shall in bright Heaven be,
Where pleasures never die.

Five years we spent in sweet delight.
With hearts love and joy.
No sorrows could our pleasures blight,

Nor peace at home destroy

How often you have cheered my mind,
And made my heart rejoice.
Your words to me were always kind,
I love your soothing voice.

My little babes my hearts delight,
While I am from you riven.
Love your Lord and serve him right.
And we will meet in Heaven.

Aged father never mourn your
loss, While I am dead and gone.
Before you I must Jordan
cross, But you will follow on.

Your words my memory yet retain.
Your kind advise to me.
While in flesh you remain.
My savior I shall see.

Dear mother raise your drooping
head, Bright crowns shall there be
given. While I am in my dusty bed.
I live above in Heaven.

I never can return to you,
One whom I dearly love.
So for awhile I bid adiu.
Till we shall meet above.

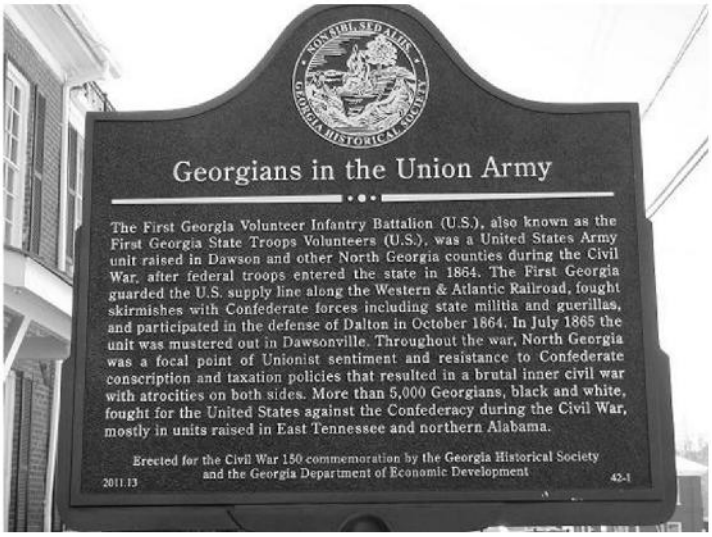
My sisters and brothers too. I
never shall see you any more.
Until the day I meet with you,
On Canoan's peaceful shore.

My brother soldiers all adiu. Your
cause I hope you will gain. May
Jesus fight your battles through.
Your noble rights montain.

Farewell to all beneath the Sun.
Lifes charms with me is riven.
My days are past, my race is run.
I soon shall be in Heaven.

Some of the people in northern Dawson County silently sided with the Union. Unlike their neighbors south of Dawsonville, the mountainous region was not suited for large farms and very few of these farmers owned slaves. Some of these people were not committed to supporting the war. As the war dragged on and the conditions at home became worse, there were a lot of deserters. The State of Georgia fought back by forming the Home Guards units from the state militia. These men were authorized to obtain the draft animals and supplies for the Confederacy. Many of the people in north Georgia claimed that the Home Guards were nothing more than murderers and horse thieves. They became vigilantes who enforced an unwritten law of their own. Some men deserted the Confederate Army in order to go home to protect their families and goods from the Confederate Home Guards.

Federal officials found that the resistance to the Confederacy and Home Guards would help get men into the Union Army. In late 1864, the Federal Armies under William T. Sherman had captured Atlanta and were marching towards the sea and the port city of Savannah. At the end of October, efforts were made to recruit those considered loyal to the Union to join the Federal army for duty in the rear lines to free up veterans for front-line combat duty.. A number of men from Dawson County enlisted in two companies. These men were under the command of James G. Brown as 1st Georgia State Troops Volunteers. The battalion was mustered out in Dawson County on July 19, 1865, after the war was officially ended.


Georgians in the Union Army
The First Georgia Volunteer Infantry Battalion (U.S.), also known as the First Georgia State Troops Volunteers (U.S.), was a United States Army unit raised in Dawson and other North Georgia counties during the Civil War, after federal troops entered the state in 1864. The First Georgia guarded the U.S. supply line along the Western & Atlantic Railroad, fought skirmishes with Confederate forces including state militia and guerillas, and participated in the defense of Dalton in October 1864. In July 1865 the unit was mustered out in Dawsonville. Throughout the war, North Georgia was a focal point of Unionist sentiment and resistance to Confederate conscription and taxation policies that resulted in a brutal inner civil war with atrocities on both sides. More than 5,000 Georgians, black and white, fought for the United States against the Confederacy during the Civil War, mostly in units raised in East Tennessee and northern Alabama.
Erected for the Civil War 150 commemoration by the Georgia Historical Society and the Georgia Department of Economic Development
2011.13
42-1

This marker in honor of the men that served in the Union Army. Found at the Old Courthouse in Downtown Dawsonville.

Company
B (Dawson County)

Roll Prepared From Memory, January 10, 1870.

The officers for this unit are listed as: Alvin W. Prince, Captain; Henry B. Chattin, 1st Lieutenant; James M. Reece, 2nd Lieutenant; Martin P. Berry, 1st Sergeant; Thomas N. Mathews, 2nd Sergeant; Thomas Chattin, 3rd Sergeant; William A. Earnhart, 4th Sergeant; Nelson Bearden, 5th Sergeant; John T. Spriggs, 1st Corporal; James L. Griggs, 2nd Corporal; Jeptha Cochran, 3rd Corporal; John Reed, 4th Corporal; Joseph Rider, 5th Corporal; and W.P. Turner, 6th Corporal.

The privates for this unit are: Elijah Ayers, Elias Clayton, William Burleson, R. M. Bearden, Francis M. Cochran, Andrew J. Cantrell, E. F. Dempsey, Elisa Denny, William Dotson, John Evans, Thomas Edwards, Pleasant Frix, Yerba Crain, James Garman, William Gladden, John Lingerfelt, John Lively, James Mincy, John C. McDougas, Cunningham Morgan, Martin Prince, Robert G. Reed, Joseph Ray, Archibald Ray, A. J. Reece, Jackson T. Reece, Henry Rider, James C. Swaney, William Scoggins, Mathew Scoggins, O. P. Turner, William W. Williams, Archibald A. Prince, William Reece and H. Newberry.

Roll Certified by Alvin W. Prince, January 10, 1870.

Company C (Dawson County)

Roll prepared from memory, January 4, 1870

The officers in this unit are listed as: Elias Darnell, Captain; Calvin J. Lawless, Lieutenant; John Kelly, 2nd Lieutenant; Virgil D. Monroe, 1st Sergeant; William A. Chumbly, 2nd Sergeant; John Tatum, 3rd Sergeant; Thomas Darnell, 4th Sergeant; Joseph M. Chambers, 1st Corporal; Josiah W. Haithcock, 2nd Corporal; Pollard Kelly, 3rd Corporal; and Jordon Anderson, 4th Corporal;

The privates in this unit are listed as William Anderson, Jr., William Anderson, Sr., Jackson Bennett, Robert Bennett, John Beck, Aaron T. Brooks, James L. Baird, Jesse W. Blackburn, Elias W. Braden, John Carlisle, Phillip Chambers, Marshall Carnes, Tandy W. Carnes, Tandy W. Carnes, Barrack Chambers, Absalom Carney, Thompson Chambley, Joseph Densen, George W. Densen, Jethro Densen, William Elkins, Jordon Elkins, Nehe M. Evans, John Evans, John Fouts, Asa A. Hyde, Alexander Henry, John Hix, Pollard Kelley, William Kelley, Joseph Ledbetter, Solomon Millsap, Daniel P. Monroe, Samuel L. Monroe, Vanburen H. Monroe, Martin Morgan, Julius McCray, Stephen S. Millsap, Henry Nelson, Jeptha Pinyan, Abraham D. Pinyan, Ambrose Payne, Thomas Payne, Andrew J. Robinson, George R. Robinson, Jacob Simmermon, James Simmermon, Collins Smith, Jordon Stone, Jeptha Stone, Amos Sutton, James Tesseneer, Horatio Tatum, Tandy W. Turner, Linzey Vaughters, Henry Whitmore, William Whitmore, Charles Whitmore, John Willey and Henry T. Whitmore.

Certified By Elias Darnell, January 4, 1870.

While on a raid to obtain horses and mules, Lt. Col. Ashworth, Capt. McCrary and 19 other members of James G. Brown's command were captured by Col. James J. Findley and his 1st Georgia State Cavalry Home Guards at Bucktown in Gilmer County. Captured with these men were papers that gave the names of their local supporters naming Dawson County Sheriff George R. Robinson, Cleveland Andrews, John Fouts, Lindsey Vaughters, and Hiram Brooks.

As Findley traveled through Dawsonville, other men captured were deserters from the Confederate units, and were executed at Gainesville on November 7, 1864. The bodies were transferred to the National Cemetery at Marietta, Georgia, in July 1867 where today they are buried in Section E, Numbers 6012-6023. Pictures of their markers can be found on the web page of National Cemetery of Marietta, Georgia.

A letter was discovered in the "Record Book of National Cemetery" at Marietta, Georgia, which was sent to the Principal Keeper of the National Cemetery and dated January 21, 1889, and signed by Virgil D. Monroe. It listed the names of the men buried there, and stated they were called into service by General Thomas of the Union Army July 15, 1864.

Milton Nix, 1st Sergeant, Company A
Thomas Edmondson, Private, Company A, #6014
William Edmondson, Private, Company A, #6015
Daniel Blackwell, Private, Company A
Lewis Lively, Private, Company B, #6012
John Reid, Private, Company B
Andrew J. Robinson, Private, Company C, #6013
Jordan Stone, Private, Company C
Thomas Payne, Private, Company C
Charles Whittemore, Private, Company C
Aaron Thacker Brooks, Private, Company C, #6016
W. J. Berry, Private, Company D, #6017
There was one large marker listing their names for all the men without grave marker numbers.

The Battle of Appomattox Court House, fought on the morning of April 9, 1865, was the final battle of the Confederate States Army with General Robert E. Lee in command. After that battle, Lee surrendered to the Union Army commanded by Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

The signing of the surrender documents on the afternoon of April 9, 1865 with a formal ceremony to follow on April 12, 1865 marked the disbandment of the Army of Northern Virginia and the parole of the officers and men. This ended the war in Virginia and triggered a series of surrenders across the south, signaling the end of the war.

William Grogan's gun used in Civil War

William Grogan's gun used in the Civil War. He was killed during the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.
1826-1964
Pat Floyd Collection

By December of 1865, the people of Dawson County as well as the rest of the state were striving to pick up the broken pieces. This shows in state legislative acts briefed here from Rebekah Wilson's writing and research from the General Assembly.

1. Parents were given permission to apprentice their children who were minors to a respectable person until the child was twenty-one years of age. The ordinary could bind out minor children who were orphans. The indentures had to be made in duplicate, one to master and one to the Ordinary. This indenture was to be witnessed as a deed.

The benefits of the child or the duties of the master were named, and the child was to be taught the business of husbandry, house service, or some other useful trade or occupation, and to have wholesome food, suitable clothing, necessary medicine and medical attention, be taught the habits of industry, honesty, and morality. He must be taught to read English and he must be treated as would a child of the master. At the end of the apprenticeship he was to be given a small amount of money to start life. If the amount of money were less than $100, the child could appeal to the Ordinary. The ways in which this agreement could be broken, or ways in which either party could be made to live up to the agreement were stated.

2. The treasurer was to burn all confederate notes and "State Change bills and other incurrent notes" which were in the treasury (of the State) in front of at least two persons immediately after March 13, 1866. The two persons were to be appointed by the governor.

3. With the above in mind, it is not hard to imagine the straits in which the state was in and to know it was reflected even more in the counties. Salaries for the members of the Assembly were discussed in the 1865-66 session. A member was not to be paid when absent unless he or a member of

his family was ill. He was to receive $12 a day and $5 for each twenty miles traveled.

4. Two hundred thousand dollars was appropriated to be used for the purchase of corn "to give bread for widows and orphans of soldiers or to wounded or disabled soldiers and to aged or infirm white persons as must suffer without aid." The Freedmans's Bureau was organized by the Federal Government only for the need of the colored people in the South.

5. Two men were to be paid $57 for services as guards of the state magazine (storage place for war supplies) at Milledgeville for 52 nights immediately preceding its destruction by the Federal Army.

6. The governor could issue and negotiate "Bonds of this state...to provide for repairs and better equipment of the Western and Atlantic Rail Road, and to relieve the people of this state from the United States Land tax, and to provide a security for the indebtedness to be created by the act." Dawson County had such indebtedness.

7. An act altered the road laws of the state so that male free persons of color should be also required to work on the roads of the counties.

8. Many fences around fields and gardens had been destroyed by the Federal troops or raiders, and since people had joined together to repair the damage, it became law that if anyone tore down a fence or left a gap open to be malicious, the person, if found guilty, might be fined $500 or imprisoned for 6 months, or both.

9. A special tax was to be levied to provide a state hospital for returned service men and to provide a place to prevent the spread of smallpox. "Whereas, the smallpox has been introduced, and is likely to spread into every county in this State, thereby causing great expense and trouble to the people."

10. The charter of the Roswell Manufacturing Company was about to expire. The officials wanted to extend the charter, for they were trying to reconstruct the mill. (This had been destroyed, and could have offered employment to many people, probably some from Dawson County.)

11. Horse stealing could be punished with death unless the jury recommended mercy.

12. Willful and malicious burning of occupied houses and burglary in the night were punishable by death.

13. To encourage the people to work, an act gave vagrancy the penalty of working on a public road, or working at some other public work, or being bound to another person for one year. If the latter was the sentence, a $300 bond must be posted by the man to whom the prisoner was bound.

14. If people were fortunate enough to have U.S. currency, it could not be used without penalty.

15. A person of color was defined, and any and all laws which had heretofore applied only to white people were now applied to this person.

16. Over three hundred million dollars of property had been destroyed in Georgia during the war, and in order to help the people, no levy or sale of property on a contract made prior to 1865 could be made. This act was extended in 1873 and thus many people of this county were able to salvage a little to begin life anew.

17. Some counties had marriages which had been made "in good faith," but it was later found that civil law had been suspended in some parts of the state, and some licenses which had been issued were not legal. All persons who had done this and were still living together were declared legally married.

18. A tax of a dollar was levied on every male inhabitant of the state between the age of 21 and 60. This tax had to be paid, and it was supposed to be used for school purposes.

19. A tax of 20 cents must be paid on each gallon of brandy, gin, whiskey, rum, whether foreign or domestic, which was sold by anyone either wholesale or retail except by distillers and manufacturers.

20. If the governor could not issue enough bonds to pay the land tax levied by the U.S. Government ($584,367.33), he was to take as much of the state tax as necessary to pay this Federal tax.

21. Each Inferior Court of a county was authorized to levy and collect an extra tax, not more than the state tax, for the benefit of deceased soldiers' families and indigent soldiers of the Confederate State

Troops.

22. A request that the Governor try to get permission to get the necessary things to repair the railroads in the state and to see if the Federal Government would remunerate for damages done by the troops, etc. The Assembly questioned the right of the Federal Government to tax these railroads for the benefit of the Federal Government.

23. County Courts similar to the Ordinary Court were to be organized in each county with the salary of the Judge being paid from fines.

24. "That all acts and parts of acts heretofore passed by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, prohibiting the distillation of corn, wheat, potatoes, and all other kinds of grain or material out of which spirituous liquors are made, be, and the same are, hereby revoked." One gentleman from the northern county, not Dawson, rose, and received permission to speak. He asked that the people of north Georgia be dealt with kindly if "caught," for his constituents would want to obey this law as they obeyed others, but transportation and communication in the northern part of the state would prevent the "word from getting around" in time to let these comply with the law.

25. If a dog killed or injured hogs, sheep, cattle, goats, or other livestock and was found guilty, the owner of the guilty "culprit" must pay for the animal or animals and the cost of the suit.

26. The General Assembly in January of 1874 gave the governor of the state the right to call out state militia or civil authorities of the counties.

27. Four men in 1866 had permission from the Assembly to incorporate a railroad company to be called The Gainesville and Dahlonega Railroad. They were W. Green, M.H. Van Dyke, Silas B. Palmer, and John Hockenhull. The last two named men were citizens of Dawson County. Mr. Van Dyke was concerned with the reopening of the gold mines in the area. As near as can be determined, this railroad was to have been partly built in Dawson County. John Hockenhull held on to the dream of a railroad in Dawson County, for his name was added, in 1873, to the initial list of cooperators of a railroad to be called the Atlanta and Amicalola Railroad. This was an act which amended the Norcross and Dahlonega Railroad Act. This rail line was to begin at Roswell (then in Milton County), extend to Cumming (in Forsyth County), go through the Amicalola Gap, and terminate at Ducktown in East Tennessee. David Smith was living in Dawson County at this time, and his name was also added.

Reconstruction began with many of the husbands, fathers, and sons who had left to fight not returning. Crops were almost non-existent and there was a shortage of money to buy seeds and other goods to start over on the farms. Many farms had been stripped by soldiers and had to begin the slow process of replanting. It would be many years before the South would recover economically.

Footnotes

Page 8

(1) Guidon – The carrier of a small flag for signaling.

(2) Artificer – A person clever in making things or inventor. Page 10

(3) Laundress – Jane Pettett was the second wife of Elias and the stepmother of his sons that went to war.

Chapter Four

The Civil War ended in 1865 with the surviving soldiers returning from battle to join their families. Some of the soldiers had been wounded and others were in very poor health due to the poor conditions endured during the war. Those who were able, along with their families, began to rebuild their farms, communities and county.

The loyal citizens of the county had supported the cause in which each believed, and most of them fought with the South. Their money had been turned in for Confederate money. This was completely worthless, and all taxes of any kind had to be paid with the legal tender of the Federal Government, which at that time was scarce.

For the most part, farming was the main occupation of the heads of households according to the 1850 and 1860 census records. Most of the farms contained only a few acres operated by the family while some were large farms with hired help, renters or sharecroppers. On most farms the entire family worked in the field. The hours were from light till dark. The farming was done with oxen, mules and horses.

Men doing the farming in earlier times.
Faye Crow Swanson's family collection.

The main crops were corn, wheat, oats and cotton with cotton being the main cash crop. Each farm had a vegetable garden and the food for the family was grown and preserved for use during the winter. The milk cow was very important as well as the hogs and chickens.

Local historian Rebekah Wilson gave a description of the homes and farms in her writing and research as follows:

The early homes were often of logs. As homes began to be built the floor plans of many were the same. Some of these plans had been purchased from a "man traveling through here. He was from up north." With the sharing of these plans by neighbors, it is doubtful that each family bought a plan. The most imposing houses were first built with either two or four rooms on the ground floor. These rooms were separated by a wide hall. If there were a second story, the rooms upstairs were in the same pattern as those downstairs with the staircase leading from hall to hall. The kitchen appears to have been in a basement more often than in a house built outside for this purpose, although this, too, is evident. The homes of the "middle class" usually had two rooms divided by a large hall.

This was her grandmother caring for the yard chickens.
Faye Crow Swanson's family collection.

An ell was built from one of these rooms which consisted of several rooms, depending on the size of the family or the wishes of the owner. For the most part these two rooms divided with the hall were on the front, but were in the back in others. Where this ell

was located depended on the position of the porch which extended along one side of the ell and the two rooms. It is hard to determine where the kitchen was in these rooms for chimneys have been torn down and flues added.

This is a picture of how the farm and the outside building looked in the early days on the Wister Tatum farm.
Gladiola Hall Nickerson Collection

The number of outside buildings depended upon the number of livestock. The barn had a hall which allowed the stock to come into the stables. If the number of cattle was large, stables would be on both sides of this hall, and a crib for storing grain would be built separately. If both sides were not used for stables, of course, one side was usually the crib.

The smoke house was used for curing and storing meat. Almost without fail there was a spring house where milk and butter were kept cool. Even after wells were dug, the spring house continued to be used by many. In Dawsonville, wells were almost a must for all homes, for a spring on city lots was unusual. These well curbs were often built with a niche for the storing of milk, etc. The finishing of the buildings depended upon the owner. Many had blacksmith shops for their own use and many had a chicken house.

Corn Crib from the Tatum farm
From the Gladiola Hall Nickerson Collection

There was usually a cellar, or pit of some kind. These were dug into the side of a bank or in any other convenient location. It was in these, sometimes, milk was kept, but the main purpose was for storing food for the winter. Usually turnips, cabbage, potatoes, or other root crops were stored. There were often barrels which held pickled beans or kraut. Sometimes there might be one in which corn had been pickled. Pickled beans were made by cooking the beans slightly and packing them with alternate layers of salt. Cabbage was chopped fine and also packed with layers of salt. Both were covered with water. The corn was shucked, silked, cooked slightly, and stored in a brine solution and cucumbers were preserved in the same manner. Occasionally one would find a watermelon cooling in the cellar.

Those with more time began to make an ice pit. This was done by digging a hole, lining it, and storing ice in the winter for use in the summer.

Nothing was ever wasted, and busy was the summer season with preparation for winter. Green beans were made into leather britches by stringing the beans and drying them. Some beans were allowed to dry in the pod. These were used to cook in the winter as well as saved to plant the next spring. Apples were either dried or stored in barrels. Nuts abounded in natural form. These were gathered and kept until long winter nights. Syrup was made from syrup cane. The fodder was pulled for the stock, the cane cut and hauled to a syrup mill where it was crushed for the juice. This juice was then boiled until the clear liquid

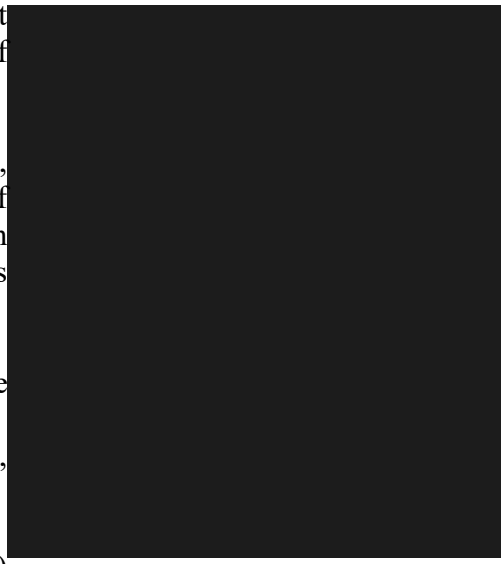
Syrup Mill was near home of William Tatum.
Gladiola Hall Nickerson Collection

became a golden brown. This was stored in jugs, and the stopper for the hole of this jug was usually a corn cob.

Crocks with wider mouths held jellies until the "coming of" glass jars. These jars were never smaller than a half gallon, and to break the monotony of the taste of one kind of jelly, layers of apple, grape or other kinds of jelly were alternated. The grape jelly might be made from wild grapes or cultivated ones, but early attempts to make raisins met with no success. Wild plums, cherries, and persimmons fell prey to the working hands, also. Pumpkins were kept either whole or dried.

When a tree was felled, if it were hollow, sections were made into various things needed for the home. These were covered at one or at both ends, depending upon the use made of them. Among the common uses were bee gums, feeding troughs for animals, and an ash hod. The latter was used to hold ashes removed from the fire places and/or stoves. Water was poured over these ashes. As the water soaked through, it was caught at the bottom and later used as a basis for soap for it contained lye. Corn was sometimes boiled in the water containing lye. This loosened the outer husk and allowed it to be easily removed. After repeated washing, this corn was eaten as hominy.

Many of the methods of preparing foods have changed, but many of the basic ones are used today, as are the methods of preserving foods.



Jeptha Talley 1817-1874
Diane Bishop Collection

In her weekly column in the Dawson County Advertiser, Mrs. Rebekah Wilson included a few months from the diary of Jeptha Talley telling about the daily life on his farm. Although this covers a period before the Civil War, it generally describes the life of a prosperous farmer of the mid-19th century.

The Talley Diary - The diary is quoted, but not in quote marks. Explanations thought to be helpful are ( ).

From the diary of Jeptha Talley, Lumpkin County, Georgia, September 1857:

The account of daily business of Jeptha Talley.

Sept. 1. Tu, I made shoes and shod one horse before (dinner?) and cut out a pair of shoes for a R. P. Talley (son) and closed them and basted one of them.

Sept. 2. W, I finished the shoes and helped him (R.) fix the wagon to start to Mossy Creek College (in Tennessee). He went to Reuben Burts and stayed all night.

Sept. 3. Thr, I went to Shoal Creek (dist) to James Barrons and sheared part of my sheep.

Sept. 4. Fr, I finished shearing my sheep and me and Barnes went to Macus to see his sugar mill and then I came home.

Sept. 5, I went down in the pasture after the horses and then went up in the graveyard to see John Sullivan buried then went over to John Palmers (across the river, his bro-in-law) and swapped my interest in Daniel Webster (a stallion) for his Wales colt and helped M. V. Talley (his married son) drive a pair of shoes on his horse before (dark).

Sept. 6. Mo, I worked on the framing of the well. Frank came home from carrying the boys to college.

Sept. 7. Tue, I helped Martin haul a load of water melon over the river and worked some more on the well frame.

Sept. 8. Wd, I went and showed Holtzclaw a tree to get some plates for my house, (and) then went to Roe's Mill after some lumber and two boxes and worked on my well frame till night.

Sept. 9. Thr, I tenanted the post around my mill house and fixed the rafters on plated them on the plates and went down in the field at night to see if my fodder was ripe.

Sept. 10. Fri, I went to Hide Muster Ground to muster (for the militia) and sold 24 of my sheep to Jas. Barons for $ 20.00.

Sept. 11. Sa, I put up the frame of my milk house around my well. Martin helped me some.

Sept. 12. Su, Lucinda (wife) and I went down to Canons and visited in the carriage for the first time.

Sept. 13. Mo, I went down to see James Kelly to hire him to help me pull fodder and mended my spring balances till dinner, then weather boarded the gable ends of my milk house, and hired Carlyles and the boy and James Kelley to help pull fodder the rest of the week. I sold Carlyle 1 bushel of corn and W. Sullivan 1 bushel and a half of wheat.

Sept. 14. Tu, I put the lathes on the milk house and sold Will Stanfield 1 bushel of wheat and had 5 hands pulling fodder for me and killed a hog in the evening.

Wed., Sept. 16, I hauled two loads of wood and went to Blacks mill then I went over the (Etowah) river to hunt beech to make a stack pole and tied 5 bundles (of fodder) before the rain.

Thur. 17, I sawed off two cuts of the post oak and quit it. Martin and I and Sullivan went over the river and cut down a beech and floated up the river to the ford and sawed them in two and hauled them to the house, and tied and stacked fodder until it rained then worked on my rollers until night. I had 6 hands pulling fodder.

Fr. 18, I turned only one of rollers. Then me and Sullivan fixed and commenced to turn. Then I went down in the field to start the hirelings to tying fodder. I had 6 hands hired today.

Sat. 19, I helped Sullivan turn my sugar rollers. After dinner we stacked some fodder before the rain came up. I had 2 hands hired today.

Sun 20, I went up to S. B. Palmour's mill to get 2 slabs to make a frame for my sugar mill and back. John Palmour (bro-in-law) and I went down in the field to see my horses and I went over to his house to get some factory thread he brought from Atlanta.

Mon. 21, I helped Sullivan finish turning my sugar rollers and laid them off and bored the holes in one of the cogs. I had 3 hands hired to work in the fodder.

Tue. 22, I went to John Russells to see if he would sell his lands and back to John Palmour to hear him sell his land. He did not sell today. I went to Tom Roe's to see if he would sell his lands and then went over to Sanfords (a merchant) all the same day and back to John Palmour's and paid him for hauling me 1 sack of salt from Atlanta and 4 bunches of thread.

Wed. 23, I bored the holes in 1 of my rollers and mortised them by dinner and went to the saw mill after some slabs to make a frame to put up my rollers in to press cane.

Thr. 24, I helped Sullivan to mortise the pieces together for the frame of my sugar mill and sold Jas. Kelly some bacon.

Fr. 25. I went to the wool factory with my wool and got one sack, carded and back by Blacks mill and home.

Sat. 26, Lucinda (wife), Moses (son) and I went to Concord camp-meeting and broke the carriage coming down the hill by Roe's and left it at Martin V.'s.

Sun. 27, I went with Sarah and Nancy and Doctor (3 of his children) to campmeeting at Concord.

Mon. 28, I fixed my syrup mill and put on a lever and started it to work.

Tu. 29, I fixed my potatoes in the hill and commenced pressing Stocks (stalks) and boiled down 2 potsfuls and it made about 2 gallons. Mrs. Wilkie ("Whelchel" today. His wife's aunt) and 5 of her sons stayed all night with us.

Wed. 30, I bunded the end of one of my rollers and mashed some more of my cane and boiled 4 gallons of juice and it made 3 gallons of syrup.

(No day or date) I went to the election and voted for ...Brown (governor), Graham (senator), Wood, and Reed. I had a beef shot for six dollars (probably made $6.00) and bought one quarter and the hide. I boiled down 2 potfuls of molasses after night.

Tu. Oct. 6, I ground cane all day and boiled down 2 potfuls by night and cut down a passel more of cane to grind tomorrow.

Wed. Oct. 7, I ground more cane and boiled down 2 potfuls and the first one made 5 gallons of syrup.

Thur., Oct. 8, I ground cane again and boiled down 2 potfuls. The first potful made 4 gallons and made 10 gallons today.

Fri. Oct. 9, I went to Blacks to muster.

Sat. Oct. 10, I helped Martin grind cane awhile. I sold J. Carlisle a little yoke of steers and a side of leather.

Sun., Oct. 11, I am at home till dinner then me and Lucinda and Reuben (son) went over to John Palmour's and stayed all night.

Mon. Oct. 12, I helped Martin grind cane and went to mill.

Tue., Oct. 13, I and Martin still ground cane till dinner and then hauled a load of cane from Martin's patch and I boiled out 2 potfuls for Martin.

Wed. Oct. 24, I hauled a load of cane and ground some more cane and made a home for John Palmer and went to mill at night. Aunt Mary (Palmer) stayed all night with us. I boiled down some more syrup.

Thur., Oct. 15, I ironed a hame (blacksmithing) for John Palmour and mended a short iron for myself.

Fri., Oct. 16, I and Lucinda sent to Shoal Creek to the campmeeting. She stayed all night.

Sat., Oct. 17, I went back to meeting with Moses and Lucinda came home with me.

Sun., Oct. 18, I went back to meeting again with Nancy and Sarah and Doctor and all came back at night.

Mon., Oct. 19, I finished ironing John Palmour's giring (gearing?) and hauled 2 loads of wood and hauled Martin's syrup to him and killed a beef and cut it up at night.

Tue., Oct. 20, I dug my potatoes and started Stephen Hide to work on my carriage wheels.

Wed., Oct. 21, I finished digging my Irish potatoes and began to pulling corn.

Thur., Oct. 22, I covered my potatoes and banded a wagon hub till dinner then went to pulling corn and hauled until night.

Fri., Oct. 23, I hauled corn till dinner then I shucked till night. There was a little rain fall today.

Sat., Oct. 24, Shucked corn all day and at night I went to Blacks mill at night.

Sun., Oct. 25, I got chestnuts awhile and started to the soapstone quarry and I met Canon and turned back. We went in the evening over to the hill in the field awhile.

Mon., Oct. 26, I pulled corn awhile then went to the Rockpile to fix about a new county (Dawson) and back and hauled 3 loads of wood.

Tue., Oct. 27, I hauled corn all day and part soled of Dock's shoes...to Mr. Henderson.

Wed., Oct. 28, I sharpened a plow and began to sowing wheat and make a sprouting hoe handle and after dinner I killed a beef and salted it away.

Thur., Oct. 29, I sowed some wheat and then helped Martin raise a crib and toted 2 loads of beans to the house.

Fri., Oct. 30, I sowed some more wheat and hauled out a stack of fodder and hauled railes and fenced 3 more (lengths?) and found some more beans and threshed out some at night.

Sat., Oct. 31, I sowed more wheat and plowed awhile. It began to rain. I quit and shucked and shelled corn and went to mill.

Sun., Nov. 1, I started out in the woods and turned and went to Edward Sullivans to see him and went back by Martins and home and at night I went over to see John Palmour awhile.

Mon., Nov. 2, I started 2 plows and sowed some wheat and doctored my mule. I pulled and shucked corn till night.

Tu., Nov. 3, I went down to Cumming and back by Carlisles to set some rocks that were left there.

Wed., Nov. 4, I pulled corn awhile. It commenced raining. I shucked corn and fixed the corn barn to put the shucks in and put one band on my carriage hub.

Thur., Nov. 5, I banded 2 wagon hubs for myself. I laid a plow till dinner, then went and sowed my upland field in rye and hauled in part of the same piece of corn. I hauled a stack of fodder then hauled some wood and pine and shucked some corn till night.

Sat., Nov. 7, I went to mill and shucked corn till dinner. I cut up a piece of beef I got from Martin and...put up another barrel of bear (beef?...could have been bear) and finished shucking my corn I had gathered.

Sun., Nov. 8, I am at home all day. It was a very wet and rainy day.

Mon., Nov. 9, I put a head in my stack pole and made some basket hoops and worked in the shop at night.

Tue., Nov. 10, I started the boys to breaking up the creek piece of ground to sow in wheat and sharpened a plow, then went to plowing myself.

Wed., Nov. 11, I made some nails and planked up Martin's cart bed and plowed awhile.

Thur., Nov. 12, I cut down a tree for wood in the field and cut some of it and sprouted awhile and plowed till dinner and after dinner I hauled wood till night with Jud and the pony.

Fri., Nov. 13, I put up my fattening hogs and pulled corn till night in the shop piece.

Sat., Nov. 14, I started the boys to hauling corn and went out to collect some money and went to Sanfords after some shoe soles and a bunch of thread.

Sun., Nov. 15, I went up to John Smiths' place to see a wagon of Mannings and back through the woods to look out for a load of pine and a gold mine.

Mon., Nov. 16, I shucked corn all day. It rained very hard all day. I wrote a letter to Ratliff at night.

Tue., Nov. 17, I hauled corn till dinner then went down to Cumming and stayed with J. W. Boone.

Wed., Nov. 18, I came back to Carlyles and home and helped the boys haul two loads of corn at night.

Thur., Nov. 19, I hauled corn till dinner and the day was so cold the snow began to fall. We quit and went to shucking till night. Lucinda went to S. B. Palmour's (Silas B. – his wife's uncle) and stayed all night.

Fri., Nov. 20, I fixed a lock to one of the doors and fixed my lot gate...off with J. Carlisle. It was a very cold day.

St., Nov. 21, I hauled out some rails from below the well and hauled one load of corn out of the ten acre piece and went with J. Kelly to look at a piece of ground to hire him to clear it and went down to see Edward Sullivan.

Sun., Nov. 22, I went to S. B. Palmour's and back to Aarons and brought some potatoes down to Ed this night.

Mon., Nov. 23, I shucked corn all day and it rained till dinner. Holtzclaw helped me and James Kelley both shuck.

Tue., Nov. 24, I began to sow wheat in the 10 acre piece and shucked out a wagon load of corn at night.

Wed., Nov. 25, I continued sowing wheat.

Thur., Nov. 26, I sowed wheat and cut stalks till after dinner then I and Martin killed 2 hogs. I cut them up after night.

Fri., Nov. 27, I finished sowing wheat in the 10 acre piece and sowed the hill by the shop in rye and skinned a calf in the evening.

Sat., Nov. 28, I went over to D. (Dabner) Elliott's and to the (Roland) tanyard and then down to Black mill to court.

Sun., Nov. 29, I went over to John Palmour's and stayed awhile. He and his wife came home with me and stayed till night.

Mon., Nov. 30, I shucked corn all day and it rained all day until in the evening. I went over to D. Elliott's to trade for his wagon.

Not everyone was as fortunate as Mr. Talley and his friends. That is evidenced by this 1870 Grand Jury report which was quoted by Rebekah Wilson in her writing and research as follows:

"*In 1870 the Grand Jury expressed concern: "owing to the improvised condition of our people and the scarcity of money and provisions in our country to supply the actual necessities of many who are striving to make a subsistence by their honest toil and labor on their small farms we hereby earnestly request and urge on behalf of the suffering poor (that) county Representative Joseph L. Perkins and our Senator John C. Richardson ask for an appropriation from the state for relief of the destitute."*

MINING

Before Dawson County was formed, there were many settlers who came to Lumpkin County, Gilmer County and Cherokee County to mine for gold and other minerals. Following the discovery of gold in the west, many of the miners went to California. Some returned with success in their pockets while some contracted the plague (cholera) or other diseases and were buried enroute to or from the gold fields or while there. For the most part those who returned were content to remain in Dawson County, but the Russells (to be discussed later) and members of their party made several trips. Mining was the occupation listed in the 1860 census for many heads of household.

Some of the miners in this area were:

Henry Howser came to this area in the 1840s for the gold mining. **Robert and John Howser**, two of Henry's brothers, came prior to 1860, as all three are listed in the U.S. 1860 census living in Dawsonville District. From the beginning the Howser family did a great deal in the forming of Dawson County and Dawsonville.

Silas Palmour traveled to the Cherokee Indian Nation to a place along the Etowah River in an area that later became part of Dawson County, Georgia. He met and married the daughter of James Dougherty in 1827; the community was named for this family. As time went on and many changes happened when gold was discovered, Mr. Palmour was afraid of removal because his wife had Indian blood, so he petitioned the Government of Georgia for citizenship for his family and the petition was signed by Gov. George R. Gilmer. With the signing of the petition, Silas's family was saved from the "Trail of Tears."

Thomas and John Stowers, Jr. both settled in the Etowah River Valley where their neighbors were

Greenberry, Oliver and Levi Russell. Thomas became a substantial citizen in the community and was a financial partner and private lender in many business deals including financing men who went to mine gold in California and Colorado. He became partners of many of the gold miners and they trusted him with their business affairs while they were away from Georgia.

Greenberry Russell learned gold mining at an early age from his father, but when his father died, Green (as he was called) became the leader of the family with three younger brothers. Green traveled west where gold was discovered with groups of men several times. He came back to Dawson County and purchased the Savannah Plantation in Dawson County, which had been the Palmer property. He and his family went back to the Cherokee Nation. Green died and was buried at the Briartown School House in the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory. His wife came back to the Savannah Plantation and lived there until her death. The life and travels of Greenberry Russell can be found in the book: *"Green Russell and Gold"* by Elma Dill Russell Spencer.

John Spriggs had purchased large tracts of land in 1843 which included High Falls that was later changed to Amicalola Falls. He was appointed Postmaster of High Falls October 6, 1843, and served until October 7, 1845.

Mr. Spriggs, with the help of his slaves, built a grist mill to grind corn and wheat, and a saw mill to supply lumber for the community and gold miners. He partnered with **Henry L. Summerour** and purchased five lots in District 5, lots # 593, #594, #595, #562 and #557. They found gold and formed **The Amicalola Gold Mining Company**, and accumulated enough gold to purchase the **Etowah Gold Mining Company**, lots #595 in the 12th District, lots #17, #48, #49 and #82 in the 13th District, adjacent to Auraria, Georgia.

The partnership continued until the death of Henry L Summerour and John Spriggs at which time their heirs formed a corporation by the name of **The Springer Mountain Gold and Copper Mining Company** on December 11, 1858.

When the Civil War broke out, the mines were closed because the miners were fighting in the war. After the war was over they were allowed to keep and reopen the mines because the United States Government needed the gold.

When hydraulic mining was introduced into Georgia, **The Springer Mountain Mining Company** joined with other mine owners to form a consortium called **The Sixty**. This allowed them to purchase land, build the ditches and obtain a percentage of the gold produced from the water that supplied the mines. A large amount of capital was needed to purchase the right-of-way to build ditches to run the water over the land. Alexander J. Spriggs was delegated to raise the capital, and C. L. Summerour, with the help of others, was to run and manage the ditches and the gold mining operations. **The Sixty** produced a good profit until 1886 when the production of the gold mines dropped until they were not profitable.

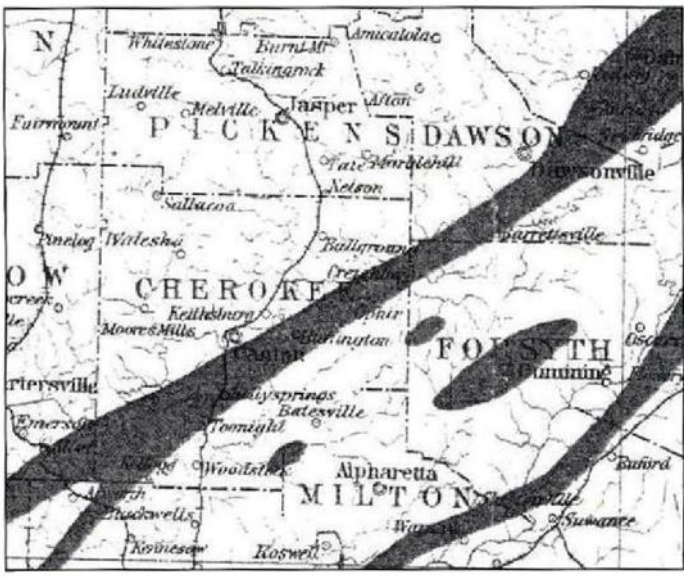
Battle Branch Mine owned and operated by **John Hockenhull and John Pasco** was located on the west side of the Etowah River just one mile from Auraria in Lumpkin County in the area that was mined between 1840 and 1850 with placer work going on in 1831. The story goes that in May 1831 a number of North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia miners were engaged in mining this area when there was a dispute between Georgia and Tennessee miners as to who possessed the property on this branch; and that was how the name "Battle Branch" came about as a name.

"Preliminary Report on Gold Deposits of Georgia, 1896," stated that in a letter from Mr. John Hockenhull of Cumming, Georgia, son of Major Hockenhull, that in an old tunnel of **Battle Branch Mine** they (Messrs. Huckenhull and John Pasco) struck a pocket of eight bushels of ore, which yielded 2,250 dwts of gold. They found in another old tunnel within three feet of where the work before had

been abandoned, another pocket of ten bushels of ore that yielded 10,000 dwts of gold. Other pockets were worked and 80,000 dwts of gold was taken from the mine.

Major Hockenhull had established a home at Auraria, but eventually settled in Dawson County where he built Hockenhull Hall in the Barrettsville Community near Silver City. He attained the rank of Major in the Confederate Army. He was an important figure in Dawson County's early history, and involved in all aspects of building the county.

The Dahlonega Gold Belt went diagonally in Dawson County within about a mile of Dawsonville, the county seat, and several gold mines were located within the county.



From: *Cherokee County, Georgia*
by Rebecca Johnston

One of the largest Gold Mines in Dawson County with records dating back to 1881 is the **Kin Mori Mine,** which was the result of investments made by Mr. I. Y. Sawtell, a well-known man from Fulton County, Georgia. He entered the real estate business after serving in the Civil War and purchased tracts of land in Dawson County. He later sold them to Charles W. Short of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Charles L Mitchell of Kenton County, Kentucky, for the sum of $35,000.00 on July 25, 1881.

This package of land contained a large number of lots located in the 4th Dist. 1st Sec. of Dawson County, Georgia. They were Lots #858, #859, #862, #908, #090, #910, #911, #926, #927, #928, #929, #979, #974, #975, #976, #978 and #977. On land lot #977 the owners obtained only one half of the mineral interest.

On Land lots #995 & #996 they had the right to build a dam across the river, and anywhere on the lots to raise the water level to the level of the top above and overflowing the fish trap dam on the south line of lot #995.

Charles L. Mitchell of Kentucky sold one undivided half interest to Charles W. Short of Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 27, 1881, for $18,000.00. Deed reads the same as the one where Mr. Sawtell sold the lots to both of them on July 25, 1881.

The next sale was Charles W. Short of Hamilton County, Ohio selling to **Kin Mori Gold Mining Company.**, a corporation existing under and by virtue of an order of the Superior Court of Dawson County Georgia. The sale was in the amount of $35,650.75 paid to Charles W. Short. This deed reads the same as the past two deeds that have been found. This one was recorded November 16, 1881.

Kin Mori Gold Mining Company started getting the right of-way for the water ditch from Nimble Will Creek to their property. The information on this can be found in Deed Book "D" 1881-1884 located in the Dawson County Courthouse. According to information on the deeds, the ditch was to be eight feet wide at the top, four feet wide at the bottom, six feet deep at the lowest side. **Kin Mori Gold Mining** was paying different amounts to the different people as each deed showed the amount that was paid and the date of the recording of the deed.

The rights for the ditch were purchased from the following people by the mining company. These records can be found in Dawson County Deed Book D which shows the location for the ditch to be dug.

George W & Sarah Russell	Lot #581 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.;
James L Height	Lot #69 in 13th NH Dist. 1st Sec.;
Sarah Howard	Lots #644,#789, #777& #778 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.;
G. M. Harden	Lot #744 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.;
John B. Hulsey	Lots #719 & #777 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.;
Hockenhull Land	Lot #650 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.;
Eliza A Turner	Lot #582 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.;
William Martin	Lot #581 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.;
Cassie Starnes	Lot #313 in 13th NH Dist 1st Sec.;
Henry Howser	Lot #251 in 13th NH Dist 1st Sec.;
Nicholas D. Fowler	Lot #186 in 13th NH Dist. 1st Sec.;
Trustees of the Universalist Church Friendship	Lots #133, 134, 187, 246 & 247 in 13th NH Dist. 1st Sec.;
Charles D. Sullivan	Lots #133 & #134 in 13th NH Dist. 1st Sec.;
R. E. Burt	Lots #61, 62, 311, 312 in 13th NH Dist. 1st Sec

Kin Mori Gold Mining Company, organized under the laws of the state of one part, and Wm. N. King of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, of the second part, for the purpose of paying its debts and reopening its property, resolved to issue bonds in the amount of $50,000.00 dated May 1st, 1883. These bonds would be $500.00 each to mature May 1st 1893 with interest of 8% per annum payable annually on 1st day of May and 1st day of November of each year. The information on this was the same information found on the deed when I.Y. Sawtell sold the property on July 15, 1881, to both men.

Also, added to this was the thirty miles of water ditch from Nimble Will Creek. This was signed by Charles W. Short, Pres, and L. W. Price, Sec. and recorded May 4, 1883. This was cancelled on June 9, 1886.

The McGuire property lies on the east side of the Kin Mori or Harris Branch property on lots #912 & #923 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec. owned by J. F Castleberry, a merchant in Dawsonville. There were reports that about fifteen thousand dwts of gold were taken from a small vein near the center of the lot.

Also the **Whippoorwill** vein was about seventy-five yards east of the McGuire vein. This was panned at several points as the concentrates showed good color.

The **Barrett Gold Mining Company** did some work for gold on lot #1107, 4th Dist. Mr. C. A. Vandiviere, of Dawsonville did some prospect work in the same neighborhood on lot #1104, 4th Dist.

The property owned by **William H. Looper** at Barrettsville in Dawson County, Lots #1000, #1042 and #1068 in 4th Dist 1st Sec., had very little work done on that land since only panning was accessible.

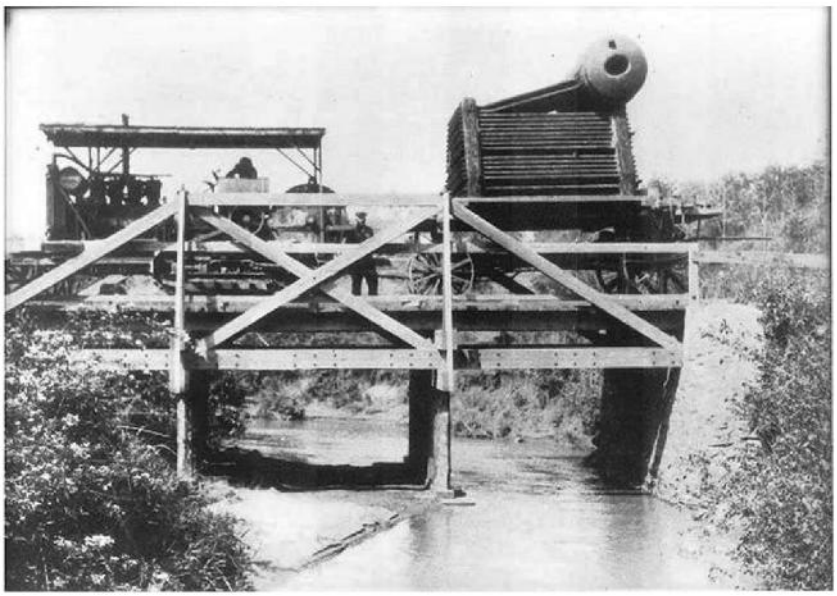
Magic Mine is northeast of the **Kin Mori Mine** on the side of a ridge known as Spike Hill. The property has lots #369, #370, #376,#424, #425, #432, #483, and #490 in 13th NH Dist. This mine was worked by **Kin Mori Mining Company** and had some buildings erected at that time of operation which were still on the property. (1909)

The **Palmour Property** had some work on Lot #361 north-half 13th Dist. 1st Sec. which yielded some quite rich ore. An open cut was made on the vein and a small stamp mill was built. The vein is quite typical in appearance and was readily distinguished from the others as far as it had been operated. It was made up of dark finely granular quartz arranged in thin parallel bands of about one-quarter inch in thickness. The laminated structure of the vein material causes it, when picked out by the miners, to break into rectangular pieces; on this account it was called **The Palmour Brickbat Vein.**

Considerable placer work was done nearby on **Proctor's Creek**. These placer deposits were reported to have had good returns. The property was owned by Messrs. D. M. McKee and N.D. Black.

Etowah Gold Mining and Ditch Company did hydraulic work on a placer deposit at the mouth of Long Branch on lot #297, 13th NH, but no records showed how successful this operation proved.

Etowah Mine included lots #117, #118, #119, #120, #141 and #178, 15th Dist. with this property located along the Dawson-Lumpkin County line. There was considerable work done on placer deposits along the Etowah River before 1909.



Hauling mining equipment from the railroad in Gainesville to a mine.
Fred Stowers Collection

The **Shelton property** on land Lot #241 north-half of 13th Dist. 1st Sec. was located about four and a half miles northeast of Dawsonville and southwest of the house on the northeast side of a ridge in a spring branch. Mr. J. F. Shelton opened an auriferous vein consisting of laminated quartz with large amounts of unutilized pyrite.

Church Lot is about four miles northeast of Dawsonville in the 13th Dist. NH. A large quartz vein five feet or more in thickness had been exposed in a pit a short distance back of the church building. When it was assayed, it showed no gold.

The **Ellsworth Mining Company or Fraction Mine** was located on Lot #54 in 4th Dist 1st Sec. about two miles east of Dawsonville and only operated for a brief time. This property was a concentrated belt of quartz stringers cut earlier by native miners and later purchased by an organization composed of people from Ellsworth, Maine. The company's first undertaking was to construct a five-stamp mill driven by an over-shot water wheel. After the mill was completed, an inclined shaft was run down on the belt and the milling was begun. The ore soon ceased to pay and the owners retired.

There were other properties in the vicinity of **Ellsworth and Magic Mines** (Lots #60, #61, #62, #63 and #547 in 13th Dist and Lots # 53, #646, #647, #648 and #714 in 4th Dist.) included in the property known as the **Amicalola Mine** where a small amount of work had been done; also, the **Missing Link Mine** on lots #373, #427, #430, #431, #483, #484, #489 and # 490 in the 13th Dist NH.

The **Hightower Mining Company** was owned by R.J. Castleberry and J. F. Bruce in 1879. On July 17, 1879, Mr. Castleberry sold one-half interest in the mine to Christian Wahl Trustee of Lumpkin County, Georgia, and on July 24, 1879, Mr. J.F. Bruce sold his one-half interest in the mine to Christian Wahl Trustee of Lumpkin County, Georgia. They each got $75.00 for their part. This mine was located

on land Lot #235 in 13th North Half Dist., 1st Section of Dawson County, Georgia. Source: Dawson County, Georgia, Deed Book C -1874 to 1881; pages 319 & 320.

Christian Wahl was a businessman from Milwaukee, whom Hungerford identifies with a project to develop a mine on Whim Hill in Auraria. In 1892, Wahl bought the **Hand & Barlow United Gold Mines and Hydraulic Works of Georgia** from Nathan H. Hand. A few years later, the **Dahlonega Consolidated Gold Mining Company** acquired the **United Gold Mines** from Wahl.

On November 17, 1869, a request was made by the **Dawson Iron Mining Smelting Mfg. Company** to have land sold and the proceeds divided among the men who together had purchased all or parts of nine lots. They also desired to sell the mineral rights. These lots had been purchased originally for the purpose of procuring "Iron Oar and enacting on the shoal of the creek an iron forge for making iron".

Dawson County, Georgia Deeds & Mortgages 1858-1874 - Book B, Pages 245-246: by the Order of Superior Court of said Dawson County, Georgia the undersigned: Samuel Harbin, Jessie Hendrix and John Hockenhull appointed commissioners with power to advise and sell the land belonging to **Dawson Iron Mining Smelting Manufacturing Company** in order to a division or partition by notice where sale was advertised for thirty days in the *Atlanta Daily New Era* and on the first Tuesday in March 1870 before the courthouse door in Dawson County these lots:

Lots # 381,368,787 and #846; all 40 acres each according to original survey situated in the County of Dawson, 4th Dist. 1st Sec.

Also, together with the mineral or mining interest in; Lots # 719,845,844, and 778

All 40 acres located in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.

And one-fourth interest in the minerals of Lot # 720 located in 4th Dist. 1st Sec.

All sold to best bidder for cash, when it was knocked off to Henry Howser and Thomas Howser both of said county for the sum of three hundred and ten dollars.

This deed was recorded: August 24, 1870

The Howsers hauled ore from this mine and washed it with the water power of Shoal Creek.

Dredge Boats on the Chestatee River and Etowah River

"A Preliminary Report on Gold Deposits of Georgia" which was done in 1896 tells of the dredge boats being put in the Chestatee River, for the purpose of dredging the bottom and washing the dredging for gold. There had been as many as six or eight boats operating at one time. When the report was made (1896) there were three of these boats in the river with only one which was operated by Messrs. Benham & Helmer. At the time they stopped work they stated that they had been having great success.

The Daily Constitution, Aug. 17, 1881, had the following story of "Dredging the River":

Dr. Little, state geologist met with a representative of *The Constitution* concerning dredging the beds of the rivers that run through the gold fields of Georgia. Dr. Little when asked if he knew anything of this new method replied "I understand that there are two companies organized for the purpose of working the river beds. One of them is now building a dredging boat at Leathers over Martin's Ford, and will be ready for operation in about four weeks."

A decade later Engineering and Mining Journal in Volume 71, dated January to June 1901, on Page 630 tells of the Georgia Dredging Company, Georgia, Dawson County:

Georgia Dredging Company----This company has been organized, with $500,000 Capital Stock with the object to operate gold dredges on the Etowah River. The incorporators are George H. Van Vleck, Fargo, N. Dak.; James M. Ashely, Toledo, Ohio; W. A. Charter, Dahlonega, Georgia. The main office will be in Dahlonega.

From Report of the Director of the Mint upon the Production of the Precious Metals -1901, "The dredge of the Georgia Dredging Company has been transferred from the Chestatee to the Etowah River,

to Dougherty, Dawson County, but can hardly be put to work before early summer."

Gold dredge boat on the Chestatee River 1901-1902
Chestatee Regional Library System Collection

Georgia Dredging Company was recorded as being located in the Savannah Dist. in the Dawson County Tax Records of 1906. In the late 1900s Arch Bishop, a life-long resident of Dawson County, who lived near the Etowah River, told of the old Etowah River boat that he remembered as a child. At the time he was telling the story, he said "You can still see that the end beams of the barge are 24 times 24, so they had to be from large trees." The remains of this one was near the intersection of Georgia 136 and Etowah River Road. Bishop told that the "old barge sits where it was abandoned in the 1920s." According to Mr. Bishop, "A lawsuit forced the people that owned the barge out of business."

Rebekah Wilson's research revealed that a dredging company had been formed. An injunction was filed in 1902 with A. L. Roper, N.D. Black, D.M. McKee, J.H. McClure, George H. Vanvieck, J. M Ashley, and Marshall L. Smith as defendants. Two of these appear to be the same names that were recorded in 1901. Could it be that these men were trying to go through some land for which they did not have the right-of-way?

Another record was found in "Mineral Resources of the United States for the calendar year of 1909, Part I – Metals" about a small output of placer gold in Dawson County resulting from the work of the Georgia Dredging Company at the **Taylor Creek Mine** near Dawsonville. Obviously, the dredging company was still operating then.

T. J. Rickman, Editor of the *Dawson County Advertiser* in Volume one February 2, 1888,wrote the following story which praises Dawson County and encourages investors:

"What she is, and what she promises to be. That the outside world, and more especially the thousands of home-seekers from the North and elsewhere may know something of the merits of Dawson County: its rich rivers and creeks, bottom lands and fine level uplands, its water-power, timbers, minerals, cataracts, clear springs and blue skies. It is a fact beyond a doubt that scores of enterprising and industrious men, reasonable amount of capital, can at this time, buy lands in this county, settle on and improve them, and make for themselves and families independent livings. We have hundreds of never failing mineral deposits, both developed and undeveloped.

There is at present no railroad running through the county, but as many as three railroads have

charters to come through Dawson County, and it is only a question of time till we shall have ample railroad facilities.

All kinds and characters of soil are to be found in this county. The finest of grass and grain lands are situated on the river and creek bottoms. On the uplands may be raised bounteous crops of cotton, wheat, oats, corn, rye, clover, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, sorghum cane, peas, beans, cabbage, tobacco, peanuts and garden stuffs of all kinds.

The Etowah River flows across the entire southern part of the county, with numerous tributaries. Through the centre and northern part runs the Amicalola, with Shoal Creek, Yellow Creek and many smaller streams, all taken together make Dawson County one of the best watered sections in the south.

Should mining lands be desired, we have all the valuable minerals, such as the richest of iron ore within the corporate limits of Dawsonville, as well as in various other sections of the county."

RAILROAD

Dawson County never had a railroad, but did a lot of work hoping that someday they would have one through the county. The people had to go either to Gainesville or Tate, Georgia, to pick up their goods shipped by rail.

The Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, April 4, 187l, reported about a meeting in Dawsonville:

"The citizens of Dawson County convened at the Courthouse for the purpose of calling the attention of the Directors of the Macon, Ocmulgee and Knoxville Railroad to the route spoken of in the Cumming meeting, in Forsyth County, of the 7th inst., which passes directly through this county, through the Amicalola Gap in the Blue Ridge, which is decidedly the most practicable route for the building of a railroad through the mountains north of us.

On motion, Maj. John Hockenhull was called to the chair, and D.E. Smith requested to act as Secretary.

On motion of Judge Fowler, the following were appointed a committee to draft resolutions: Rev. Joseph McKee, A.M. Barrett, S. H. Perkins, Judge Fowler and G. W. Smith.

In the absence of the committee, D.E. Smith delivered an interesting and appropriate address to the meeting.

The committee reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

1. Resolved, That Major John Hockenhull, D. E. Smith and A.M. Barrett be appointed a special committee to correspond with the Board of Directors of the Macon, Ocmulgee and Knoxville Railroad, on the practicability of the route; also, to represent to them the wishes of the people of Dawson County in regard to said road being built.

2. Resolved, That we recommend a mass meeting to be called on the first Tuesday in April, and that John J. Bishop and D.E. Smith be requested to address the meeting.

3. Resolved, That the following named citizens be appointed a committee to conduct the Engineers through Dawson County and show them the most practicable route: N.H. Goss, Samuel Harben, John Lingefelt, D.E. Smith, Major John Hockenhull and Virgil R. Smith.

4. Resolved, That the citizens of the present meeting agree unanimously to grant the free right-of-way to said Railroad Company.

On motion, the secretary was requested to forward a complete statement of this meeting's proceeding to the proprietors of *The Atlanta Constitution*; hoping that they, and all other papers friendly to this enterprise, will publish.

Maj. John Hockenhull, Chairman
D. E. Smith, Secretary

Acts and Resolutions of the General Assembly of Georgia on January 1876, No. 428 tells of another try for a railroad near Dawsonville. An Act to change the Northern terminus of the Marietta and North Georgia Railroad, and to authorize the building of a branch to the Tennessee line near Ducktown, and to connect and consolidate said road with the North Carolina and Georgia Railroad, and for other purposes.

Section I. Be it enacted, etc., That the "Marietta and North Georgia Railroad Company," be and they are hereby authorized to change the line of said road from Ellijay to the mouth of Fightingtown Creek, in Fannin County, and to run the line and build said road from Ellijay, in Gilmer County, to the State line in North Caroline, to intersect and connect with the North Carolina and Georgia road leading to Murphy, with all the rights, privileges and franchises heretofore granted to said railroad company.

Sec. II. Be it further enacted, That said railroad company shall have full power and authority to build a branch from said road, from such point as they may deem best, to the Tennessee line near Ducktown.

Sec. III. Be it further enacted, That the said railroad company be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to consolidate said road with the North Carolina and Georgia road upon such terms as they may deem best.

Sec. IV. Be it further enacted, That the said railroad company shall have full power and authority to build and construct a branch of said railroad, from some point at or near Ball Ground, in Cherokee County, by or near Dawsonville, in Dawson County, and by or near Dahlonega, in Lumpkin County, to Rabun Gap, in Rabun County.

Sec. V. Repeals conflicting laws.

Approved February 28, 1876.

In the year 1884, there were right-of-way lands being bought by the Gainesville, Dawsonville, and Cartersville Railroad. This can be found in Dawson County, Deeds and Mortgages, Book "D," 1881-1884. According to the deeds, the railroad company was paying each person $5.00 for the right-of-way as listed in each deed. Some of the deeds stated that "the land contained within one hundred feet in width on each side of the track, or roadway measuring from the center, of any portion of the lot of land, hereinafter described though which said railroad may be constructed, run and operated." Other deeds stated "All the land contained with 15 feet in width on each side of the tract as roadway, measuring from the center of any portion of the lot of land." The lots were located in Dist 13, NH from Lumpkin County line to today's Highway 53 East out of Dawsonville, and some were in Dist. 4, 1st Sec. near or in Dawsonville. It is not certain that the railroad company had purchased all the right-of-way, but the railroad was never built. There are places where the roadbed was constructed along the Etowah River.

Efforts to bring a railroad to Dawson County were often reported in the news media:

Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, Oct 5, 1889, printed: "Opening North Georgia, Dahlonega's Railroad Prospect Brightening."

Dahlonega, Georgia - The railroad fever has thoroughly taken possession of this community. We now have a good chance for one of two roads and possibly for both. Active steps are being taken in the survey of the road from Ball Ground or Tate Station through Dawsonville to this point. This road would give us a connection with Atlanta by the Marietta and North Georgia, and with Knoxville and the west by the Knoxville Southern which is now being rapidly built. The other road is Richmond and Danville with it being routed by Gainesville and Dahlonega.

Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, March 9, 1891 printed:

"The Cartersville & Gainesville, The Engineer Reports on the route- Some Interesting Points."

Canton, Georgia-- Last week Colonels Jones and Stegall, of Bartow County, and Parker N. Black, a civil engineer, from Atlanta, were in Canton on a reconnoitering trip for the purpose of laying out a route for the proposed railroad to be built through the rich iron and marble beds, gold fields, fertile

valleys and heavily timbered section of country between Cartersville and Gainesville, via Canton, Tate and Dawsonville.

This is the report submitted by Engineer Black:

The route proposed leaves the Western and Atlanta near the Etowah Iron Company's switch and strikes the Marietta and North Georgia at Tate S, thence on to Dawsonville and from there to Gainesville by the route already graded.

Discussing the cost, the report said:

The length of the line to be constructed from the East and West railroad at Cartersville to Dawsonville will be forty-six miles. Three miles only to be graded east of Dawsonville; the remainder of the distance to Gainesville is graded and the track laid from the Chestatee River to Gainesville, including a bridge across the Chattahoochee River. The total length of the line will be about seventy-three miles. There will be four large bridges: one across Etowah River northwest of Emerson, one west of Canton, one at the Amicalola River west of Dawsonville and one at the Chestatee River. Four small bridges will have to be built: at Allatoona Creek east of Emerson, at Little River near Cherokee mills, at Long Swamp Creek near Tate and at Yellow Creek west of Dawsonville. One tunnel may be required at the crossing of the Marietta and North Georgia railroad. Very little trestling will be required, but few large cuts and fills.

A more economical line, and one that the parties are interested in building, is largely in the iron business at Chattanooga, Birmingham and other points. These companies own the large iron properties in Bartow and Cherokee, and the marble companies in Pickens.

A month later in *The Atlanta Constitution*, Atlanta, Georgia, April 10, 1891, another story about Dawsonville and a Railroad:

"They want the Road; Citizens of Dawsonville are impatient for Railroad Connections"

Dawsonville, Georgia - Mr. P.N. Black, the civil engineer who has been engaged for some time past in looking after the route of the proposed railroad from Cartersville to this place, was in the city, looking after the interest of the company organized to build this road, and procured the company that obtained a charter during the last session of the legislature for a road from Dalton, or some other point in northwest Georgia, via this place to Augusta, also spent a day or two here recently on railroad business.

Gainesville is bound to have another western connection, sooner or later, but as long as several different lines are proposed, and as many different companies are scheming either to build or to unload on some other company that really does mean business, work will be delayed. However, we are satisfied that the managers of one of these projects mean business and will yet give us another road.

The Dawson County Advertiser on January 3, 1899 told with the headline "The Rail Road" that the people of the county were still hoping for a railroad:

The prospects now are good for Dawsonville to have a railroad within the next twelve months. This road is to be built from Cartersville to Gainesville via Ball Ground and Dawsonville.

We are informed that it has already been graded from Ball Ground to Marble Hill, a distance of eight miles and that the work of grading is rapidly going on between Ball Ground and Cartersville. The

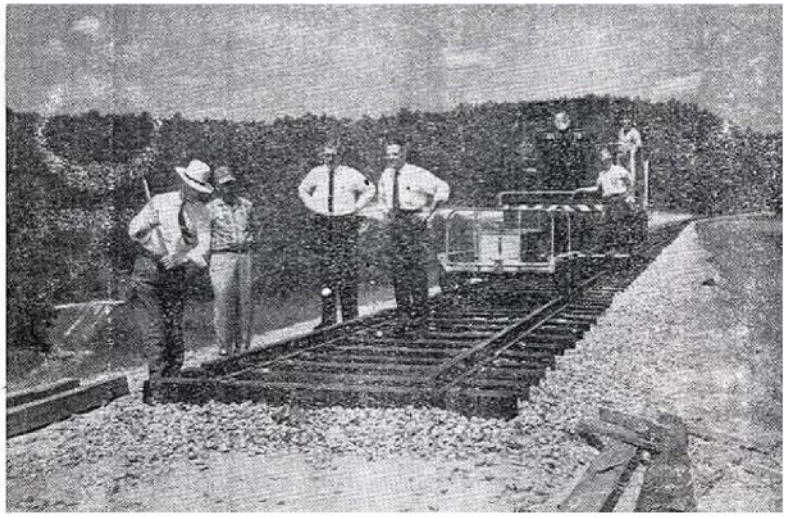
President of the Company has said that the road would be completed within twelve months. Dawson

County's immense water power, which could be easily utilized for manufacturing purposes,
as well as her abundance of timber, is unexcelled by any county of North Georgia.

Should this Railroad be built, we predict for our county, in the near future, industry and prosperity instead of idleness and poverty.

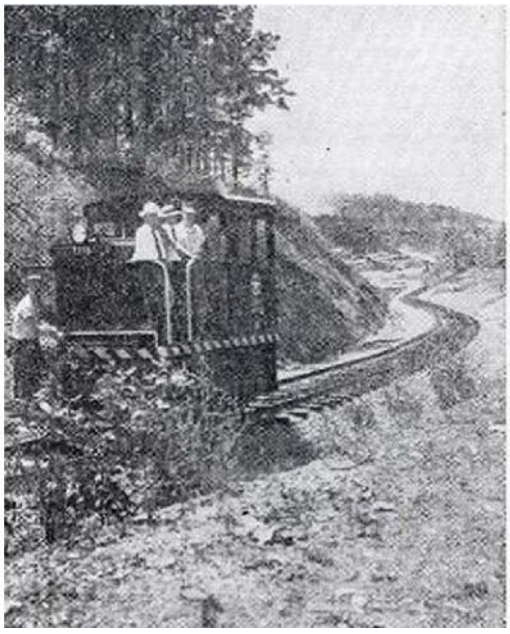
With all the work the men of the county did during the late 1800s and early 1900s, one would have thought that a railroad would have been built. With little access the county did not develop industries and the major basis of livelihood was farming after the gold mining ended.

Ironically, in the late 1950s, Dawson County got a railroad, but not one that would run through the county. It was when Lockheed Aircraft Corporation built a plant in the county.



***Dawson County News* October 2, 1958**

Dawson County News, on October 2, 1958 has a picture of W. Roscoe Tucker, prominent attorney, swinging a sledge hammer to build the first railroad ever located in his home county. He said that the little railroad system would only run two and one half miles to connect two buildings at the Georgia Nuclear Laboratory. The laboratory was to play an important role in development of an atomic-powered aircraft for the U.S. Air Force, and would use the train to transport test articles from the Radiation Effects Laboratory to the Reactor and return.



Dawson County News
October 9, 1958

The next week's *Dawson County News*, on October 9, 1958, had a picture of the train running on the new railroad track. This Laboratory was closed a few years later.

So after all the years of work, Dawson County did get a "Railway," but not the one they had desired for many years.

TELEPHONES

The need for telephone service for the county was recognized very early. From the General Assembly of the State of Georgia 1880-81 can be found an act to incorporate the Dahlonega, Dawsonville and Gainesville Telegraph and Telephone Company.

Another attempt to bring telephone service to the county was found in **The American Telephone Journal** dated January to July 1909, Vol. 17, No. 21 on page 614;

Dawsonville, Ga.--T. J. Brice, J. S. Clark, J.D. Cox, I. F. Cox, J. D. Duncan and others of Dawson County, G.A. Barnwell, L. R. Bryson, J. A. Cothran, T. J. Conner, W. N. Edwards and others of Hall County have applied for a charter under the name of the War Hill Telephone Company. They intend to construct, maintain, and operate a telephone line from Gainesville, Georgia along the Dawsonville road, to a point near Lumpkin Campground, in Dawson County.

If either of these developed, apparently they did not succeed because small private lines continued to be erected.

Rebekah Wilson in her research and writings recorded the following:

In 1903, The Dawson County Commissioners gave permission to Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company to erect, operate, and maintain lines along and over the public roads, streets, and highways of Dawson County. Since nothing was said about the route along which lines would be installed, it is assumed that if county wide coverage was not to be at the beginning that it would soon reach all homes.

One of the first pay telephones used featuring a money slot in top of phone to pay for your call Pat Floyd Collection

The citizens of the county began as early as 1908 to present petitions for the formation of telephone lines in their respective communities. This 1908 request was that the Farmer's Telephone Company with G. R. Elliott as president and W. J. Taylor as secretary have the right to establish a telephone line in Sanford's district. Helping with this were C.A. Vandiver, B. R. Taylor, and R. D. McClure.

1910 found two requests for lines. One was for the line in Dawsonville to run to Burtsboro in Lumpkin County. R. H. Parks was to be president, and the other was to be known as the Amicalola-Johntown-Cartecay Telephone line, and petitioning for this were J.S. Holden, J.A. Fausett, S.J. Densmore, R.L. Fausett, M. J. Seay, V.R. Bearden, Daniel Seay, Willis Southern, R.M. Seay, J.H. Crane, and J. M. Ruddell.

The Amicalola Phone Company was a different undertaking. The stockholders were W.J. Whitmore, Emory Whitmore, J.A. Whitmore, R.M. Fife, T.T. Chumley, W.D. Chumley, L.J. Richards, and T.B. Hubband. The families of the stockholders were to have free use of the telephone, but all others would pay a bill monthly, and under no condition was there to be more than twenty phones from W.W. Hill's to J.A. Whitmore's.

The Shoal Creek Telephone Company was represented by J.R. Anderson, Jordan Anderson, C.B. Fowler, B.K. Vandivere, J.B. Reece, James Reece, W.B. Burt, Lester Parks, G.R. Vaughters, W.O. Vaughters, N.T. Spriggs, and James Spriggs.

There were four telephone petitions in 1912 on record. One line was to begin at John Town and run by the residences of RJ. Grogan, S.J. Ruddell, Peter Weaver, J.R. Ruddell, W.A. Densmore, B.W. Gilleland, Benj. J. Fouts to the residence of J.B. Mathews. Although the residence of Sam Weaver was not given, it is assumed that he, too, would have this service for he signed the petition.

The second request was the New Hope Telephone Company where a committee was appointed and was composed of W.J. Turner, J.B. Harben, and S.P. Long.

The third request was for consolidation by: H.S. Fouts, Ballground; R.H. Parks, Burtsboro; Hugh Tatum, Juno; J.M. Pirkle, Sweetwater; S.A. West, Shoal Creek; W.H. Elliott, Silver City; J. A. Whitmire, Amicalola; W.M. Gentry, Roberts and Heard; S. Weaver, Johntown; J.A. Farriba, Afton and Anderson;

J.W. McArther, Antioch; S.B. Harben, New Hope; Robert Seay, C.L. & L and A.L. & C.M.J. Bearden, Nimberwill; and M.D. Reece, Emma. The object was to consolidate all the small lines in Dawson County with that being operated by W.H. Elliott for the purpose of "vocal transmission". The switch board was to be in or near Dawsonville, and the main office in Dawsonville.

The fourth petitioned to set up the principal office in the residence of L.G. Stowers. The committee was R.R. Elliott, J.J. Martin and J.W. Wallace.

After April 1913 no reference was found to the consolidation, and the Dawson County Rail and Telephone Company had a call meeting at this time. The citizens continued for some time to use these lines. The phones were operated with dry cell batteries, and in order to use the "vocal transmission" one must know the long and short rings of the person being called. No doubt many people wished for more time to eavesdrop on these rings!

The first switch board in Dawsonville was apparently installed in the home of Mrs. Auroria Fowler. This home was across the street from the Pure Oil Station (where the Kangaroo Convenience Store is located in 2014). A small building was erected on city lot 12 in the northwest division. This building was destroyed by fire and Dawsonville was without a telephone system of any kind until July 1939 at which time Southern Bell installed a pay phone in the Texaco Station of the Harben Brothers (on GA Highway 9).

Soon after World War II a group of progressive citizens met in the home economics room of the Dawson County High School with a representative from the Bell Telephone Company. He advised them it would be impossible for the Bell Company to give service to Dawson County until sometime in the distant future. He advised and recommended that the Standard Telephone Company be allowed to install lines. This suggestion was followed, and gradually almost all homes in the county had telephones. A switch board was first installed in a building behind Harben Brothers' Station. Later an automatic switch board was installed.

By the late 1950s, Standard Telephone Company was in the city of Dawsonville and all of the county west of the Amicalola River; and south to Highway 318. Nelson Ball Ground Telephone Company was west of Amicalola River and Southern Bell Telephone Company was south of Highway 318.

Standard continued to operate the telephone system in Dawson County until it was supplanted by Alltel and then Windstream.

The 21st century, however, has seen the growth of cell phones and many diverse communication systems.

Chapter Five

Although Dawsonville, the county seat, is the only incorporated city in Dawson County, and hosts the only U.S. Post Office in the county, there have been a number of other well-defined communities and authorized post offices. For many years, each community was self-sufficient since there were no railroads or telephones. The transportation was by horseback or horse drawn wagon or buggy. There were few roads, mostly trails and these were sometimes muddy and impassable. Each farm produced the food for the family and their animals. Corn and wheat were taken to a nearby mill to be ground into cornmeal and flour. A store, post office, church and school needed to be within walking distance. Home grown eggs, chickens, etc. were used to barter for the goods they could not produce.

Chickens for eggs and ducks for feathers that were used for feather beds and pillows. Faye Crow Swanson's family collection.

Until the late 1900s, court was held in Dawsonville for approximately a week twice a year. Court week was also a time for socializing and parties to be planned. Not only were these looked forward to, but also many persons, especially the men, came at least one day just to see friends and hear news. Many times the wife was brought to town to purchase things they could not make, such as kitchen utensils and material for clothes. Court week served as an excuse to visit, see friends, and gossip.

CHURCHES

Churches and church campgrounds were established early in the part of the Cherokee Indian Nation that became Lumpkin County and later Dawson County. Many times log dwellings served as the church and as a school; often one building was used as both. Later people gave or sold land for a small amount of money to be used for better buildings.

Amicalola Baptist Church was established in a log building in 1872. A new church building was constructed on the land listed in Deed Book B 1858-1874, page 285, dated January 11, 1879, from O.D. Ledbetter. It stated that it was Lot #268, 4th District, 1st Section for three acres.

This building was built by the people in the community. This was remembered by a church member as all records before 1922 were destroyed in a fire at the home of the church clerk, Thompson T. Chumbley.

The church still stands on its original structure, with a lot of additions and improvements to the building.

Antioch Baptist Church was established August 14, 1876, on land donated by Martin Lowman. It was located on Antioch Road off Highway 52 West in the northwest section of Dawson County. The first church was built of logs and later improved with sawed lumber. Hightower Association Records list that the church burned before or just after 1920. All the old records were destroyed and little information survived for this period. After the fire, the church disbanded for a number of years.

Around 1957 or 1958, Lester Seay and Rev. Cecil Simmons began to rebuild and work was completed in 1959 with three members.

Antioch Baptist Church
Dawson County Historical Society

At present there are more members and Sunday school classrooms have been added to the church.

Bethel Baptist Church
Sue Swafford Collection

Bethel Baptist Church was constituted June 12, 1841. The first church was a log structure near the present church location on Highway 136. The land now occupied by the church, Lot #109, 4th District, 1st Section, was voted on when the church met in conference on June 17, 1848. They agreed to pay $20.00 for the land which was to be used for a church.

In 1920 a fire destroyed the church built in 1909. The sanctuary of the church built in 1920 has been continually improved and remodeled.

Bethel United Methodist Church was established around the same time as the Lumpkin Campground on the same 40 acres. The first church was a log structure located down the road from the campground. When that church burned, another building was added to the campground property, and in 1939 moved across the road from the campground and later the exterior was bricked. Additions and improvements included a new sanctuary with the older building becoming a chapel.

Dawsonville Baptist Church was constituted in 1854 but the very early records were destroyed in 1928. In Deed Book D 1881-1884 dated December 9, 1871 to the members of the Baptist Church of Dawsonville for love and respect from Mijemin and Elizabeth Manning a part of Lot #441 in the 4th District and 1st Section of Dawson County. This lot of land is on the west side lying between the two public roads leading from the town of Dawsonville and toward Auraria (now Highway 9) and the other to Gainesville (now Highway 53) and extending back east forty-six yards on a straight line between both

Dawsonville Baptist Church
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

Dawsonville Baptist Church holding baptism
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

roads and from the fork of both road to the near west side of said lot of land, for the purpose of building church house for public worship.

A one-room structure was used for all services until 1939, when a new facility was built. This facility included a sanctuary and four Sunday school rooms and was first used August 31, 1943.

In 2002, a larger facility was built on nine acres of land less than two miles north of the downtown facility on Highway 9. This congregation named themselves **First Baptist Church of Dawsonville**. A portion of the membership retained the name of **Dawsonville Baptist Church** and built a new facility north of the original structure.

The building constructed in 1943 was sold after 2002 and a new church, **Grace Presbyterian Church** was formed.

Dawsonville Church of God was established around 1947 or 1948 with meetings held in homes and later in a tent until 1953 when the present church was constructed on Highway 53 east of Dawsonville. The name of this church was later changed to **New Life Church of God**.

Dawsonville Church of God of Prophecy in Dawsonville was first set in order in September 1933 in a log building located about five miles from Dawsonville at a place known as Myrtle Hill. In 1941 the church moved from Myrtle Hill to Highway 19 North in the building presently occupied by the Ric Rac thrift store. Later a larger church was built on Highway 53 east of Dawsonville.

Dawsonville Methodist Church was founded about 1850. It was originally built on the property that lies between what is now W. Second and W. Third Streets and the front of the church was on what is now Highway 53.

The property on which the church and parsonage now stand was purchased from Joseph Castleberry, March 12, 1881, for $125.00 according to Deed Book D 1881-1884, for a part of lot #445, District 4, Section 1. The church building was moved from the original site, using mules and sleds.

The original church building was a wood frame. During the 1980s the building was updated to a brick church with new windows and carpeting.

Dawsonville Methodist Church
Gladiola Hall Nickerson Collection

Goshen Baptist Church
A Painting by a member
Charles Finley Collection

Goshen Baptist Church had a building believed to be located on Highway 136 just before it joins Highway 183. The second building was near Afton Road and the cemetery was on top of a small steep mountain. This would be the site mentioned in the church minutes listed below:

"Goshen Baptist Church minutes 1834 to 1896, dated May 13, 1843, then took in consideration and agreed to move the church on to lot #821 and agreed to build a meeting house 24 by 30 feet."

Dawson County Deed Book B 1858-1874 lists a deed dated February 12, 1870, where Nathanial H. Goss sold to John Turner a certain parcel of land situated in the Cherokee Purchase, one lot #198 with the exception of where Goshen Meeting house stands and privileges around it for church purposes. This deed was recorded September 11, 1874, and can be found on page 333 of that deed book. This is the location of Goshen Baptist Church today.

Harmony Baptist Church was organized in 1870. In the early years the church met in the old Harmony school building. On November 15, 1884, Thomas Stowers gave and conveyed Lot #40 in the 13th District, 1st Section seven and one-half acres of land to the committee members for Harmony Church and School. In 1885 a sanctuary was built near the school location. This structure was used until 1957 when construction of the current brick sanctuary was begun.

Harmony Church and School House
Vaudell Carter Sosebee & Barbara Wallace Collections

High Shoals Baptist Church records show it was established June 7, 1879, shortly after the Civil War in a community of Buncombe two miles atop Amicalola Falls. Church records show that the last meeting of the original High Shoals Church as a constituted church was on September 22, 1934. The church was abandoned until the 1960s when people began meeting in the old cemetery and later in an open shelter. The building now standing was built in 1975 by people who were determined that High Shoals would shine again. The church was reconstituted on September 30, 1989, with several charter members by letter.

Juno Baptist Church was established with the constitution of the Missionary Baptist Church at Juno Baptist Church on November 15, 1888. The origination meeting was held at Goshen Baptist Church. Zebulon Payne donated the land, and Noel and Samuel Payne cut and sawed the timber to build the first church.

In 1954 Sunday school rooms were added and many more improvements have been added.

Juno Baptist Church
Lemma Swafford Collection

Lebanon Baptist Church history can be traced back to the 1800s when it started as a Methodist Church. James Dooley sold the land to the church at New Lebanon Republican Methodist Church for the sum of $5.00 for three acres. It was Lot #1170, 4th Dist., 1st Sec. as listed in Deed Book A 1858-1874 on page 176, dated January 13, 1857.

The first structure, made of logs, was lost to fire, and after that, services were held in a brush arbor with both Baptists and Methodists attending.

When Salem Methodist Church was formed, it became the home for the Methodists and Lebanon became the home for the Baptists.

Lebanon Baptist Church was officially formed in 1940.

Liberty Baptist Church was established in 1833. The first building was a log house near the back

of the present-day cemetery. In 1840 a second house of worship was constructed of hewed logs.

The third building, a frame structure, was suggested in conference on March 1855, constructed and lost to fire December 4, 1895. Liberty Academy was used as a place of worship until the church was rebuilt and dedicated on September 13, 1896.

The present church on Liberty Church Road in southeastern Dawson County was built and dedicated in July 1961.

Liberty Baptist Church
Jean Elliott Denard Collection

Lumpkin Campground was established about 1830. Its site consisted of 40 acres located on Lumpkin Campground Road off Highway 53 West in southeastern Dawson County. An open air pavilion or arbor was built surrounded by a collection of rustic cabins called "tents" by the church members.

A part of the original arbor survived with additions and maintenance. The arbor was originally lighted by lanterns hung on the huge posts. Later, electricity was a concession to modern times. A pumping system replaced the open spring which was once the only source of water. Several of the tents have been replaced with new up-to-date cabins over the years, complete with air conditioning and bathrooms. Campground policies require that exteriors remain unpainted and follow the same designs as the originals.

Lumpkin Campground Tents
Peggy Taylor Hulsey Collection

Arbor ready for service
Peggy Taylor Hulsey Collection

McKee's Chapel United Methodist Church was given five acres of land in the northwest corner of Lot #50, 4th District, 1st Section for love by C. J. and Martha A. Purdy as recorded in Deed Book B 1858-1874 on pages 287 and 288.

Joseph McKee gave a donation of $50.00 to aid the building of a wooden frame church. About 1909 a homemade winch and house jacks were used to move the church a considerable distance, so it would be close to the road. This small frame building was replaced by a brick building which presently stands unused under the trees. A new larger building was built just across the road from the cemetery.

McKee's Chapel United Methodist Church
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church was organized in 1840 and a log cabin was built on land donated by Reubin Hill Sr. A frame building was replaced in 2008 with a new church and the old building was moved to Kelly Bridge Road at the Amicalola River to be restored.

New Bethel Baptist Church was constituted on October 9, 1869. John D. Palmour on May 29, 1879 gave two acres of land to the Officers of New Bethel Baptist Church as long as they continue to meet in church business. This deed can be found in Deed Book C 1874-1881 on pages 308 and 309. This land was located on Lot #304, 13th NH District, 1st Section.

There is no record of church activities until 1924 when the articles of faith were established. Membership records from Hightower Baptist Association stated the church had 111 members in the 1911 minutes.

New Hope Baptist Church was established June 3, 1846, with members from Goshen Baptist Church. On August 21, 1888, Samuel Harben deeded six acres of land for $6.00. The church started as a log cabin and was replaced around 1900 with a plank white sanctuary that still forms the core of the church today.

New Hope Baptist Church
Dawson County Historical Society

Pleasant Hill Full Gospel Church was established on May 9, 1953, on a one-acre tract of land given by Mr. Goodman Elrod. The wood structure was a long one-room building built with volunteer labor. Later four Sunday school rooms, air conditioning, a water system and other improvements were made to the building.

Pleasant Union Baptist Church must have been started before 1869 as James Reece donated for love and affection two acres of land including the meeting house and grave yard. A portion of land lot #236, 5th district and 2nd section is recorded in Deed Book "B" 1858-1874 on page 392, dated December 8, 1869.

One of the church books burned, so some history of the church was lost. The church seemed to survive until about 1929, when the membership decreased. Although services were suspended for a

Pleasant Union Baptist Church
Donnie Tatum Collection

period of time, the church with several members began services again.

Salem Methodist Church was established in the early 1800s in a little building made of logs. A plank building was erected in 1850. A cement block building was built and dedicated in 1913.

Sweetwater Baptist Church was established in 1870 and joined the Hightower association in 1885. The records from 1870 to 1887 were lost. Deed Book C 1874-1881 on page 558 lists one acre of land in Lot # 394, 4th District, 1st Section sold for $5.00 by W. A. Stone on June 7, 1881 to William Fife, James Fouts, and Reuben Young.

The first building was a one- room building with a wood burning stove. Later Sunday school rooms were added and the church enlarged.

Westside Tabernacle of God had its beginning in the fall of 1961 as an nondenominational church. It began as a plain block building with hardwood floor located on Highway 53 west of Dawsonville near the Pickens County line. There were no benches or any musical instruments. Later improvements included wall-to-wall carpet, paneled walls, central heat and air conditioning, a baptistery, a piano, an organ and new benches. In the 1980s the name of this church was changed to **Sounds of Liberty Assembly.**

As the population of Dawson County increased, additional churches and denominations were established by the citizens. In the April 2nd, 2014 edition of the Dawson News & Advertiser, Worship section page 6A, the following churches are listed: Bahai Faith; Baptist: Calvary Baptist Church, Etowah Baptist Church, Faith Baptist Church, Foothills Community Church, Glory Divine Baptist Church, Gospel Way Baptist Church, Grace Community Church, Harvest Baptist Church, Lighthouse Baptist Church, Moriah Baptist Church, and Trinity Baptist Church; Methodist: Pleasant Grove United Methodist; Jehovah's Witnesses; Seventh Day Adventist; Non-Denominational: Chestatee Worship Center, Christ Fellowship, Church of the Apostles, Grace & Truth Church, Hands of Grace, Harbor Worship Center, Hill Top Tabernacle, Holy Grounds Tabernacle, Jesus' Name Apostolic, Kilough Church by the Lake, North Georgia Bible Chapel, Providence Bible Church, Reach Church, The Church @ War Hill, Trinity Church, Swan Center Monastery and Winds of Peace Fellowship; and Presbyterian, Grace Presbyterian Church.

The following churches are no longer active churches:

Hinchlieffe-Pleasant Grove Methodist Church was located across the road from the intersection of highway 183 and highway 53 west of Dawsonville. Long ago it was Hinchlieffe School and Church, but with a new building the name was changed to Pleasant Grove Episcopal Methodist Church. Dawson County Deed Book "D" 1881-1884 lists a deed for three acres, more or less, in Lot #363, 4th District, 1st Section and shows where the church was located.

The church was discontinued and the membership letters and church records were sent to McKee's

Chapel. Later the property was sold, and the building was torn down.

Holly Creek Church was a Congregationalist Church according to information in the Dawson County Heritage Book 1857-1996 per Annie E. Swafford with her great memories that she loved to share with all.

The old church is gone, but an abandoned cemetery was located on private property when the Cemeteries of Dawson County book was published. The cemetery was listed as the Perry-West Cemetery in the book. The book gave directions to find the cemetery: from the intersection of S.R. 183 and County Road 225, go northeast on County Road 225 at McKee's Chapel U.M.C. for one-half mile to the cemetery site fifty feet from the right side (south) of the road. The cemetery is 200 yards west of the intersection of County Road 342 and Juno Church Road. There was evidence of three graves with marker, and one additional grave with a plain marble footstone and no headstone.

Prospect Baptist Church is gone, but the markers and a large amount of rocks marking the graves of past members can still be found.
Pat Floyd Collection.

Prospect Baptist Church was located about three miles east of Dawsonville on Highway 53. This was an African-American church. An unfortunate episode in Dawson County's history occurred in 1912, when the few remaining blacks left the county. Their flight was supposedly induced by repercussions from a murder in neighboring Forsyth County, in which black assailants were allegedly involved. The Prospect Church and School was burned.

Prospect Church Cemetery was inventoried as follows:
F. Goss, -, February 1, 1892
Jimmie Goss, -, October 11, 1906
Rev. Jerry N. Goss, August 7, 1830, May 6, 1890
Atisama Goss, August 16, 1876, November 11, 1916
Earnest Cantrell, June 10, 1897, February 20, 1898
Danny Cantrell, October 13, 1905, November 7, 1907
Reese Cantrell, October 8, 1882, December 19, 1909
J. H. Roe, February 18, 1877, February 3, 1897

Shady Grove Methodist Episcopal Church information can be found in Deed Book B 1858-1874 with a deed dated February 8, 1869, for three acres of land from Thomas Chumbly. It started as a brush arbor and then a log building that stood for about ten years.

Universalist Church Friendship was set up in the will of Aaron Palmour dated September 11, 1866, which was listed in Dawson County Wills, Admin. & Guardians Bonds, Book "B" 1857-1896 on page 157 thru 169.

J. D. Palmour was listed in the 1878 Universalist Register.

A deed dated November 6, 1880, in Deed Book C 1874-1881 gave the information that John D. Palmour, as trustee of said church of the first part and Josephus Rhodes, Joseph McAfee, John D. Palmour, Benjamin A. F. Palmour and William W. Odum, as trustees of the second part were being conveyed the property that was left in Aaron Palmour's will for the church.

On September 3, 1881, Dawson County Deed Book D 1881-1884 gave the information that the trustees of Universalist Church Friendship sold to the Commissioner of Roads and Revenue town Lots #13 and #14 for $50.00.

Zion Baptist Church, established in 1879, was admitted into the Hightower Baptist Association in 1892 and departed the Hightower Baptist Association in 1897.

The church was located on the road between Sweetwater and Barrettsville about halfway to Hays Bridge. In 1910 the little church was torn down. In 1957 after the land was purchased to establish the Lockheed Nuclear Laboratory, the graves were moved to Sweetwater Cemetery.

POST OFFICES AND MAIL DELIVERY

The Confederate States of America provided for a National Postal Service to be established, and then required it to be self-financing beginning March 1, 1863 (section 8, Powers of Congress, item 7). President Jefferson Davis had appointed John Henninger Reagan on March 6, 1861, to head the new Confederate States of America Post Office Department. The Confederacy had contracted with five different printers to print stamps. Only one printer, J.T. Patterson & Co., of Augusta was from Georgia. The other four were: Archer & Daly of Richmond, Virginia; Hoyer & Ludwig of Richmond, Virginia; Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd, of London, England; and Keating & Ball of Columbia, South Carolina. The Confederate Post Office proved to be very efficient and remained in operation for the entire duration of the Civil War.

Although the Confederate Government had contracted for the printing of its own stamps, they were not yet available on June l, forcing postmasters to improvise. Most of the time they went back to accepting payment in cash and using a "paid" hand stamp on the envelope. Some postmasters pre-stamped envelopes "paid", or an amount, to regular stamps produced by local printers.

The first Confederate postage issues were placed in circulation in October of 1861, just five months after postal service between the North and South had ended. Jefferson Davis was depicted on the first issue of 1861.

Because Confederate post offices existed for only a few years and official and informal records of them are lacking, relatively little is known about their operations in many regions of the South. Some data has survived through Confederate Covers or stamped-addressed envelopes.

Early mail delivery was by horseback or by buggy. Later the car was used for mail delivery. The post office facilities were located in a home, a store in the community, or a small building.

Most of the following information on post offices can be found on microfilm in the National Archives, and by looking at early maps. Some of these post offices were located in Forsyth County, Hall County and the portion of Lumpkin County which later became Dawson County. Most communities had a post office, store, and other businesses.

Afton Post Office was located northwest of Dawsonville near the Amicalola River with the post office first in the house and later moved to the general store by the Densmore family. This community

not only had a post office, but there was a general store, a blacksmith shop, and a car repair shop. This post office was discontinued in 1945 and the mail was routed to the Emma Post Office. The postmasters at Afton were Ervin L. Foster, Bryman B. Turner, Emily I. B. Anderson, Marian A. Densmore and Mrs. Carrie Densmore

Hand Painted Sign from the Afton Post Office
Pat Floyd Collection

Barrettsville Post Office was located in Barrett's district in the southern part of Dawson County near the Etowah River. Barrettsville Community was a gold mining town in the early days and in addition to the post office there were stores, a saloon, and boarding houses. Barrettsville Post Office combined with Calhoun and the name was changed to Smithville. This post office was discontinued in 1911 and there is no information about where the mail was sent at that time. The postmasters at Barrettsville were James T Barrett, Capel A Barrett, Reuben Barrett, Robert Barrett, Harriett A. Barrett, John R. Barrett, James M. Barrett, Augustus H. Barrett, Montie F. Dooly, Nettie Mincey, Eddie B. Stovall, Mark W. Chastain and John A. Chastain.

Big Savanna Post Office There is no information where this post office was located and there is no information about where the mail was sent when the post office was discontinued November 7, 1881. The postmasters at Big Savanna Post Office were J.W. Woods, Joseph M. Chambers, John T. Palmour and Robert Gober.

Bright Post Office was located south of Etowah River near the intersection of Highway 53 East and Georgia 400 across the road from the Hendrix house (this is now the location of the Bank of the Ozarks). This post office was discontinued in 1933 and mail was routed to the Gainesville, Georgia Post Office. The postmasters at Bright were Jane Hendrix and Mynor E. Hendrix.

Buncombe Post Office would have been somewhere around Cochran Falls, as that is where the Cochran family settled and named the location where they lived. The post office was discontinued in 1883 and the mail was routed to the Weir Post Office. George W. Cochran was postmaster.

Calhoun Post Office was located in Lumpkin County and merged with Barrettsville and later changed to **Smithville**. The postmasters at Calhoun were James W. Robinson, John W. Keith and Gilderoy W. Smith. According to Lumpkin County records, the post office was discontinued in 1866.

Congo Post Office has not been found on a map, but was listed on the Dawson County United States appointments of postmasters as being in a residence. On January 4, 1904, G. R. Murphy was shown as postmaster, but the post office was discontinued on March 23, 1904 with no additional information about this post office. G. R. Murphy was on the 1910 U.S. Census living in the Dawsonville District and married to Cora Hyde Murphy with a family; this must have been where the post office was located.

Cogburn Post Office was located in the Cox Community on the mail route of Warhill and south of Landrum west of the Chestatee River. It was discontinued in 1906 and the mail was routed to the Gainesville, Georgia Post Office. The postmasters at Cogburn were Benjamin T. Couch, Julia A. Cox,

Mathew Cox, John R. Smith, John B. Simpson and George B. Elliott.

Crossville Post Office, originally in Forsyth County, was later moved to Lumpkin County and was later consolidated with Benton, but the name remained Crossville. It was located southeast of the Etowah River and near Dougherty. Crossville was later changed to **Dixon** Post Office. Dixon Post Office was discontinued in 1902 and the mail was routed to the Bright Post Office. The postmasters at Crossville were: Walter R. Webster, Levi Burtz, Walter R. Webster, Freeman A. Sanford, William S. Sanford, Raymond Sanford, Mrs. Nettie Sanford and Ratcliff Boone. The postmasters at Dixon were Alex S. Bird, Mary Bird, John C. Edmondson, Mrs. Sarah M. Barnes, James T. Smith, Mrs. Mary P. Martin, George K. Porter and Julius O. Hughes.

Dawsonville Post Office is the only post office in Dawson County at the present time, located east of downtown Dawsonville on Highway 53 east. Prior to this location the post office was located on Highway 9 South of Dawsonville with the dedication for that post office on September 1, 1968. The post office was in several locations prior to 1968. In March of 1921 fire destroyed a store, a warehouse, the post office and the plant of the newspaper. It was reported that all records in the post office and about $1,200 in cash was lost. According to a newspaper article, Mrs. Rachel B. Parks stated the Post Office was moved on December 29, 1945, to the former bank building from the Grogan building which was built for its housing several years earlier.

A busy day at the Dawsonville Post Office
Pat Floyd Collection

Prior to 1985 the postmasters at Dawsonville were Alfred M. Barrett, Felix G. Smith, Daniel Fowler, Daniel P. Monroe, Mrs. Mary V. Perkins, Henry C. Johnson, Amanda M. Milhollin, James T. Tucker, David J. Burt, James H. McClure, William J. Tucker, Benjamin R. Taylor, Monnie Anderson, Roland C. Bearden, Mrs. Etta C. Bearden, Grady Shoemaker, Mrs. Maud Howard, Mrs. Rachel B. Parks, Bertie Taylor Goddard, Marvin Fuller, Mary Jo Overstreet and Faye Abercromble.

Dougherty Post Office was located in the Savannah Militia District southeast of Dawsonville on present day Highway 53 East near the Etowah River. This post office was discontinued in 1955 and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. The postmasters at Dougherty were: J. W. Woods, Joseph Chambers, John Palmour, Robert A. Gober, John Y. Gober, Pearl Gober, Pearl McClure, N. Cleo Gober, Robert A. Gober, Jr., Elizabeth Hardy, Mrs. George Gober and Mrs. Leila Gober.

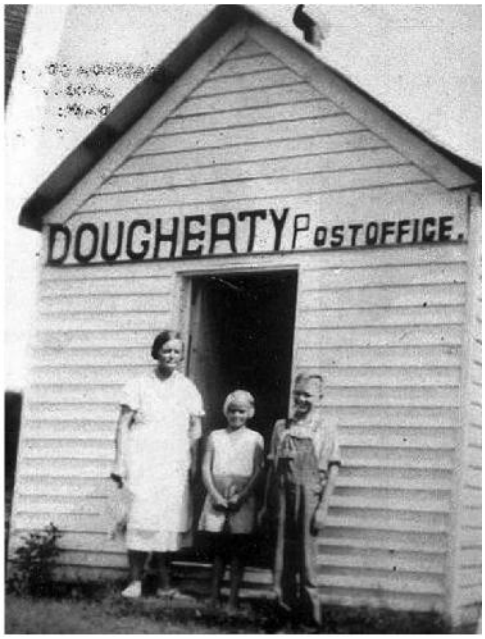
Emma Post Office was located south of the intersection of Georgia 136 and Georgia 183 in the house of Mr. Long at the time of closing. This post office was discontinued in 1953 and the mail was routed to the Marble Hill Post Office in Pickens County, Georgia. The postmasters at Emma were Richard G. Grogan, James L. Grogan, Mercer G. Harben, Jacob Orr, Raymond E. Burt, Emma T. Holden,

Ida Whitaker, Carrie Matthews, Martha M. Seay, and Wilburn H. Long.

Fork Post Office was located north of McKee on the Dawsonville to Ellijay Road. The post office was discontinued in 1915 and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. Benjamin C. Chastain was the postmaster.

Gentry's Mill Post Office was located in Georgia Militia District #989 on present day Hubbardsville Road and south of Cowart Road, just east of Pickens County line. The name of this post office was changed to **Hubbardsville** Post Office in 1899. The postmasters at Gentry's Mill were Alice Heard and Marion M. Gentry.

Harris Mills Post Office could have been located on or near Harris Branch which was located on the land that once was the Kin Mori Gold Mining property south of Dawsonville. This post office was discontinued in 1866. James L. Harris was the postmaster.



Dougherty Post Office
Fred Stowers Collection

High Falls Post Office was located near Amicalola Falls. The postmasters at High Falls were Elias Turner, Abel Sheriff, Sr., John Spriggs and Henry H. Ware. In 1846 the name was changed to **Amicalola.** This post office was discontinued in 1923 and the mail was routed to the Licklog Post Office in Gilmer Co. Georgia. The postmasters at Amicalola were Elisha Melton, John Spriggs, Jr., Samuel Harben, John Spriggs, Henry K. Wikle, John S. Summerour, William Chester, Isaac C. Foster, Benjamin J. Chester, Louisa Summerour, Amilda A. Chester, Elizabeth Goss, Washington W. Pierce, Sarah S. Stone, George B. Littlefield, Charles S. Summerour, Miles D. Reece and Laura E. Reece.

Hubbardsville Post Office was located in Georgia Militia District #989 on present day Hubbardsville Road and south of Cowart Road, just east of the Pickens County line. The post office was discontinued in 1907 and the mail was routed to the Ball Ground, Georgia Post Office. John R. Hubbard was the postmaster.

Johntown Post Office was first located in the John Holden home, and later in the Densmore home just across the road from Fausett Lake. Later the post office was moved one mile up the road to the John Fausett home located on Highway 52 West leading to Ellijay. This post office was discontinued in 1944 and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. The postmasters at Johntown were John S. Holden, W. J. Whitaker and Mamie L. Fausett.

Juno Post Office was located on Highway 183 near the Amicalola River and east of Sarepta Post Office**.** The post office was in a small building just past Juno Baptist Church. A storm, possibly a small tornado containing hail, hit the Juno community and turned the building upside down. At that time the post office was moved across the road into the house of Ruth Harben, the postmaster, until she retired in

1970. When the post office closed after Miss Harben's retirement, the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. The postmasters at Juno were William Burt, Clark G. Burt, Jordon D. Whelchel, Jordon D. Mitchell, Zebulon C. Payne, Charles J. Harben, Annice E. Harben, Linton S. Chastain, Garrett Chastain, Georgia Chastain, Charlie Goode, Mattie A. Harben and Ruth Harben.

All that is left of Johntown is the sign and chimney Pat Floyd Collection

Landrum Post Office was located in Big Savannah District on Auraria road west of Georgia 400 and east of Georgia 136. It was discontinued in 1905 and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. The postmasters at Landrum were: Thomas J. McClure, William J. Palmour, George S. Johnson, Thomas K. Boone, Ratliff Palmour, and John R. Palmour.

Laurel Post Office was located northeast of Silver City on Blacks Creek. It was discontinued in 1904 and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. Zilda W. Smith was the postmaster.

McKee Post Office was located in the community of McKee on current Highway 136 at the intersection of Tanner Road in the Shoal Creek District. The post office was discontinued in 1913 and the mail was routed to the Atlanta Post Office. The postmasters at McKee were Joseph K. McKee, Andrew J. Anderson, Joseph H. McKee and James R. Anderson.

Noah Post Office was near the community of Black's Mill on the road from Cumming to Dixon. This post office was discontinued in 1882 and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. Noah D. Black was the postmaster.

Palmour Post Office was located in the Big Savannah community on the road from Cumming to Dahlonega, south of Auraria and west of New Bridge. It was discontinued in 1904 and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. The postmasters of Palmour were Benj. F. Morton, Chas F. Palmour, Henry E. Perry, Zachary T. Bird, J. D. Whelchel and Mrs. Elizabeth R Palmour.

Pott's Mountain Post Office was located north of Yellow Creek and west of Juno in the Wolfscratch Wilderness area. It was discontinued in 1908 and the mail was routed to Ball Ground, Georgia. The postmasters at Pott's Mountain were Thomas Honea and Martha Hubbard.

Purdy Post Office was located on the road from Dawsonville to Marble Hill, about six miles south of Juno. The postmaster was Sona Head from 1895 until the post office was discontinued later that year and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office.

Purdyville Post Office was located on the road leading to Ellijay by way of Howser Mill west of Dawsonville in the house of Mr. Purdy. It was discontinued in 1879. The postmasters were Clark J. Purdy and Henry Purdy.

Rives Post Office was located northeast of Dawsonville and east of Shoal Creek in the vicinity of McKee. The post office was discontinued in 1896 and the mail was routed to the McKee Post Office. Eliza Crawford was postmaster.

Rockpile Post Office was located near the Etowah River south of the town of Dawsonville and near Barrettsville. This post office was discontinued in 1904 and the mail routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. The postmasters at Rockpile were Preston J. Clark and Leander S. Bailey.

Round Hill Post Office was an unknown location with Dennis Hyde as postmaster starting in 1851 and discontinued in 1857. This information was found in Lumpkin County records of US Appointment of Postmasters. This post office may not have been located in Dawson County but there was a Round Hill School in Dawson County.

Sarepta Post Office was located northeast of Dawsonville on the road to Johntown and east of Juno. The post office was discontinued in 1919 and the mail was routed to the Dawsonville Post Office. The postmasters at Sarepta were Benjamin A. Kay, William M. Kay and Roland C. Bearden.

Talley Post Office would have been located in the Savannah Valley area when Dawson County was formed. This post office was discontinued in 1866 and there is no information about where the mail was routed when the post office closed. The postmasters at Talley were Mathias Talley and Jeptha Talley.

War Hill Post Office was located near Hall County on the Dawsonville to Gainesville road west of the Chestatee River. The post office was discontinued in 1906 and the mail was routed to Gainesville, Georgia. The postmasters were John D. Maulding and John C. Jay.

Wier Post Office was located near the Lumpkin County line and northeast of Amicalola. This post office was changed or moved to Lumpkin County, Georgia, on May 3, 1898. The postmasters at Wier until it moved were William F. Summerour, Aaron V. Cochran and Louisa Summerour.

Yellow Creek Post Office was located between Pott's Mountain community to the north and Gentry's Mills (later Hubbardsville) to the south. The post office was discontinued in 1907 and the mail was routed to Ball Ground, Georgia. The postmasters were Benjamin Jones, James L. Heard, Marcus L. Heard, Joel T. Heard and Mary S. Heard.

SCHOOLS

The following was written and researched by Rebekah Wilson, Dawson County Historian:

There is a deed for lots numbered one and two in the southwest division of Dawsonville purchased from Henry Howser for $152.00 and $100.50 respectively, for the purpose of erecting a school building. The lien on this building was found and is as follows:

"Notice is hereby given that I claim a carpenter's or a mechanic's lien on the house built by me for a school house in the town of Dawsonville in the southwest division of said town situated on a lot 50 x 100 feet furnished by the undersigned to the school building committee for said contract $50.00; lumber purchased for said house $13.68; nails and boards $12.00. Said building done by authority and direction of the building committee, to wit: H. Howser, S.C. Johnson, J.L. Perkins, J.M. Bishop & John Co. Richardson. 5th March 1870, Henry Howser, builder"

By way of explanation Henry Howser was owner of a store and later built a hotel on these lots. S.C.

Johnson and J.M. Bishop were attorneys, and J.M. Bishop had served in the General Assembly as well as Joseph L. Perkins and John C. Richardson.

From the $75.68 School building on lots number one and two in the southwest division, to the first building on a hill in the shape of a Roman Cross, to a cement block building, to two stone buildings destroyed by fire, to the present facilities, the strides have been ever onward. From the small one or two room schools in the country, built of logs with a mud chimney and named for the G.M. District or an outstanding feature of the site; from the log, to frame, to brick – the vanguard stepped forward with ever lengthening steps.

This information was found in Deed Book D 1881-1884 on page 281, dated May 22, 1882, and recorded May 25, 1882: Hiram B. Smith granted to George R. Robinson, William Hyde, R. P. Lathem, Henry Johnson & James M. Bishop as trustees of Dawsonville Academy at Dawsonville, Dawson County, Georgia in consideration of his love & high regards of the cause of education for one Dollar, Lot #441 in 4th Dist. 1st Sec. Side of Public Road known as the Dahlonega Road & running due south along the east line of said Lot 210 feet, due west 210 feet, due north 210 feet to the south side of said public road due east 210 feet to said beginning point parcel of land containing about one acre which parcel of land has now situated a house known as Dawsonville Academy.

The first Dawsonville High School was a boarding school in Dawsonville as the following advertisement was placed in *The Dawson County Advertiser*: Dawsonville High School, Dawsonville, Georgia, Term Begins September 21, 1896, Rates of Tuition Reasonable, Special Instruction given to Teachers and those preparing for College, Oscar Palmour, Principal, Dawsonville, Georgia.

Two years later the following advertisement was placed in the *Dawson County Newspaper*: Dawsonville High School, Dawsonville, Georgia, Term Begins October 31, 1898, Good Board can be secured at $7.00 per month, Rates of Tuition Reasonable, Special Instruction given to Teachers and those preparing for College, For Particulars, Address, W. P. Martin, A.B, Principal

Etowah Masonic Lodge No. 222 F & AM voted to accept the School Building committee's invitation to lay the cornerstone of Dawson Institute on November 30, 1912. This was found in the minutes of the 150th Anniversary Open Meeting of Etowah Masonic Lodge.

There was a Dawson County Rural Schools Reunion, Sunday May 23, 1993, at the Dawson County High School Lunch Room. On the pamphlet for the reunion was a list of 39 rural schools: Amicalola, Antioch, Barrettsville, Beulah, Blacks, Bolton, Burt Creek, Chumbley, Crawford Falls, Cross Roads, Dawsonville, Emma, Etowah, Harmony, High Shoal, Hubbard, Johntown, Juno, Kilough, Landrum, Liberty, Lumpkin, Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Vernon, McKee, New Bethel, New Hope, Oak Grove, Pine Log, Pleasant Grove, Poplar Springs, Riverview, Round Hill, Savannah, Sweetwater, Shoal Creek, Turner, White Oak, and Zion.

Also included in the pamphlet was some information from the local newspapers of the earlier days. The articles are from the *Mountain Chronicle* and the *Dawson County Advertiser*: The first one listed was dated July 11, 1880, "Mrs. Mell Milollin commenced a school here on the 12th with a good attendance. Mr. S.D. Kelley opened a school at Sweetwater with 60 pupils. Miss Della Richardson commenced a school at Pleasant Grove."

Another article dated November 11, 1881, stated, "The new jail is a handsome building. Now, let's have a schoolhouse that will look as well. If we had more schools and schoolhouses we'd need fewer jails."

A block school building was built around 1917 and used until the late 1930s. The blocks were manufactured by Jordan Anderson. The foundation began to crumble and the building had to be torn down. A picture of the block school dated 1924-25 was found in Laura Robinson Stowers' collection.

A pamphlet, “Our New School Building, Dawsonville High School” was prepared “for those who might be interested in the building of Dawson County and for the improved education facilities therein.” The building was completed and ready for occupancy in February 1935. The new school was a one-story building, with eight large class rooms, an auditorium, library, and office. The outside was rock veneer, of local stone furnished by Col. W. R. Tucker of Dawsonville. This building was destroyed by fire on October 15, 1940.

Graduation exercises for the 1941-42 graduating class were held at Lumpkin Campground on May 25, 1942, since the next school building had not been completed.

The rock quarry of Mr. Roscoe Tucker with Mr. Wright and family. This was the location of rock for the new building. Lemma Wright Swafford Collection

The next Dawson County High School was also rock veneer from the Roscoe Tucker quarry. This building was lost to fire on January 16, 1962. The blaze was discovered about 2:00 a.m. by Mrs. Finley who lived across the street from the school. The loss of the building included about 5,000 volumes in the library, the science department equipment, typewriters in the commercial department and an almost new piano. This affected all the high school students and the two fifth grade classes that were housed in this building.

The fire was reported in the *Dawson County News* on January 18, 1962, with information that the school reopened that day with no lunches and a double session. The former VFW building located on Highway 53 west of Dawsonville was converted into classrooms for the elementary grades, which would have been the two fifth grades that had been housed in the high school building. The high school students were housed in the gymnasium because of changes of classes for Home Economics and Agriculture. The typing department was housed in a section of the lunchroom.

Plans were made to build another school, as a good school and building were essential to the county. The new high school building on the same property was completed by 1964. This building was completely remodeled in the summer of 1998 to convert to the Dawson County Middle School after the high school moved to a new location.

The new Dawson County High School, situated on 60 acres on Perimeter Road, was dedicated January 25, 1998. At that time this facility had 145,000 square feet. Twelve more classroom and health and medical instructional facilities (10,000 square feet) were added in 2004. The school takes great pride in representing the community on the playing fields and in the classrooms.

Dawson County High School that was lost to fire.
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

Around 1932 the Dawsonville FFA Cabin was located on the northwest corner of the school campus. This was a log building that was built under the leadership of the vocational agriculture teacher.

The cabin was destroyed by fire. The remains had to be removed around 1940 to make way for the agriculture-home economic building.

The Board of Education, with the cooperation of the County Commissioners and the National Youth Administration, built one of the finest and most beautiful vocational agricultural departments in the State of Georgia for the boys of Dawson County. A solid stone building built of local stone housed the Vocational Agriculture class rooms as well as the community canning plant and a community farm workshop. In later years the building was shared with the girls and their Home Economics classes.

In 1999 this building was restored to be used by the Dawson County Arts Council and renamed the Bowen Art Center. This is the only remaining part of the old Rock School.

Dawsonville High School, like many other schools in the early 1930s, did not have a gym for basketball but they did have both girl's and boy's teams. The first place for playing the game was an outdoor clay court on the west side of the agriculture building.

Later A. W. Vandiviere, superintendent of Dawson County schools, had a building erected that was used as an auditorium, a classroom, a cannery and principal's office. This auditorium was also used as a

gymnasium. The building burned and the remains had to be removed to make way for the agriculture building.

The first Dawson County gym was built around 1950; the 1952 boys' basketball team won the school's first trophy. Basketball was the main sport and many trophies were won in the next years. On October 17, 1964 another tragedy struck when this gym was lost to fire. Forsyth County allowed the basketball teams to practice and host their home games in the old gym in downtown Cumming.

A new gym was built with the first games being an Invitational Christmas tournament in December 1965. Both the girls and boys won the championships in that tournament.

Lumpkin Elementary School
Dawson County Historical Society

Lumpkin Elementary School was for many years located in an old church. That school was in what is now Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery. Later a two-story building was built and that building was replaced by a six-room structure. The next building was made of red brick and was "L" shaped. When this school was occupied in the fall of 1955, all elementary students from the nearby school districts were consolidated into the new Lumpkin School. Lumpkin Elementary School was consolidated to Dawsonville School in 1966. This made the school in Dawsonville the only school campus with all students in the county in grades one through twelve housed there.

Westside Elementary School
Dawson County Historical Society

Westside Elementary School was built around 1948 with students from Etowah, Amicalola, Crossroads, and Sweetwater to be relocated to this school. The school had an auditorium with a stage, classrooms, kitchen, heater room and bathrooms for both girls and boys. In 1965 Westside Elementary School was consolidated to Dawsonville School.

Dawson County Elementary School was built in 1955 but was called the lunchroom because it contained not only the elementary classrooms but also the principal's office and the lunchroom for the elementary and high school. This building was built where the old lunchroom had been located behind the High School. The building was later expanded when the new high school was built in 1963.

Dawson County Middle School was converted from the elementary and high school buildings on Highway 9 North after the new high school was built in 1998. This building was demolished and a new Dawson County Middle School was built and completed in 2008.

Herbert W. Robinson Elementary was dedicated on August 7, 1988, serving grades three through five. In 1998, Robinson Elementary merged with **Dawson County Primary School**, which opened in 1985. The school was named in honor of Dr. Herbert W. Robinson, former principal of Dawson County High and Elementary School. Dr. Robinson's love for education and his desire to help others made him a role model for thousands of students in all aspects of the educational field.

Black's Mill Elementary was constructed on Dawson Forest Road on property which once was a productive business community with a small grist mill. With a groundbreaking ceremony on August 11, 1997, the school opened a year later. The daughter of the original landowners sanctioned the school colors. She chose green and gold "green for everything above the earth and gold for everything beneath the earth."

Kilough Elementary School opened with their first classes on August 9, 2002. The programs and facilities were specifically designed to meet the changing needs of elementary school students.

Riverview Middle School located on Highway 9 and **Riverview Elementary School** located nearby on Dawson Forest Road was named in memory of a previous school in that area and for the river flowing near the schools. The middle school was built before the elementary school which opened in August 2010.

Board of Education and Administration Offices
Pat Floyd Collection

Dawson County Board of Education and Administration Offices were housed in the Dawson County Courthouse until 1990 when new offices were constructed near Robinson Elementary School. In 2013 the offices were moved to the former home of the Community & Southern Bank building east of Dawsonville on Highway 53.

Lanier Technical College has a campus located in downtown Dawsonville in the newly renovated technology building of the former Dawson County High School. This 15,860 square foot building provides four general classroom-computer labs for management, accounting, business office technology, CAN, and general core classes. In addition there are spacious labs for the various welding, automotive, plumbing, and electrical construction certificate and diploma programs. It is provided with an electronic media center.

Lanier Technical College
Pat Floyd Collection

Chapter Six

Even as they were busy with their personal daily lives, the citizens of Dawson County were concerned about their public buildings.

JAILS

The **second jail** was built in 1871 and served the county for approximately 10 years.

Since 1865 or 1866 when the first jail in Dawson County was destroyed by fire, prisoners had been housed in adjoining counties. In her column in the *Dawson County Advertiser*, local historian Rebekah Wilson wrote about the jail finally to be built:

It was not until 1871 that plans were made for a jail. The next specifications were: l. Sixteen feet square on the outside; 2. Ground to be leveled. 3. Foundation was to be large flat rocks beneath and up even with the surface.

On this rock foundation 4 sills (10 x 12 inches square, laid at the corners so that their upper faces were even, and pinned at the corners) were to be laid. Then on these sills the floor was to be laid. This floor was to be made of logs 8 inches square. Those must be well fastened to the sills. The ends of the logs were to be even with the outside wall. Further, the floor was to be cross-laid throughout its entire length with planks which were 2 inches thick and nailed with 20 penny nails driven in rows not more than 6 inches apart.

The wall was to be built of logs 10 inches square so that the corners would have no cracks of any consequence, nor would there be any cracks between the logs. The logs were to be well pinned to the walls, and the height of the walls of both floors was to be 7-l/2 feet each.

The second floor was to have an added precaution of security by having the underside of the floor cross ceiled with planks 1 inch thick and firmly fastened with nails.

The walls of both stories were to be ceiled on the inside with planks 2 inches thick and held in place in the same manner as the floors. These planks were to be perpendicular. The lower story was to be cross-ceiled the same as the upper and the nails were to be midway between those of the upper.

The ceiling of the upper room was as follows: “joist placed 2 feet apart and let into the wall plate and extended over sufficiently for boxing the ceiling to be of plank one inch thick and securely nailed.”

The roof was to be of good rafters, covered with sheeting and oak boards (shingles) twenty inches long, only six inches of which to overhang.

The gables were to be well weather boarded.

A partition wall of timber 8 by 10 inches square was to be built in the upper room and connected with the main walls. This “room” was to be 6 feet from the wall in which the outer door was to be constructed.

The partition was to be 2-1/2 feet wide and 5 feet high with a substantial shutter well hung with strong iron hinges and a good lock thereto.

A trap door, 2 feet square, was to be made within the small apartment of the upper story. A well fitting shutter made of plank 2 inches thick and doubled was to be made for this opening. The planks were to be nailed together from each side with suitable nails driven not more than 2 inches apart. There were to be two bars of iron 2-l/2 inches wide and 1/2 inch thick firmly battened to the shutter. Each of these pieces of iron was to work in a strong iron staple driven into the floor on the same side as the hinges. A hasp was to be fitted on the same kind of staple on the other side of the shutter so that it could be locked into place with a strong pad lock with keys “having different wards”.

The outer door was to be 2 1/2 feet wide and 5 feet high. It was to be fitted with closely fitting shutters and be double. One of these doors was to open to the outside, and the other into the inside. They were to be hung as the trap door.

Grates 2 inches by 8 inches of wrought iron or cast iron were to be firmly fastened into place in the walls over the windows. If wrought iron were used, there were to be two grates at each window. There were to be three windows on each floor.

A platform was to be made on the wall on the outside at the outer door. This platform was to be 4 feet by 6 feet along the wall with balustrades and a stairway made from the ground.

A light ladder was to be made which could reach from the lower floor to the trap door.

The contractor was to furnish all materials of good quality and build on the site designated by the Ordinary.

The building was to be paid for when completed according to specifications, and it was to be completed by January l, 1873, unless the contractor was given more time by the Ordinary.

The contractor was Felix G. Smith. He was to construct this building for $625. The contract was signed on July 4, 1871, and thus the day we celebrate as Independence Day was to mean less freedom for those who disobeyed the laws! Later an agreement was reached for planks, 1 inch thick, to be nailed on the outside for an additional cost of $75.

The site chosen by the Ordinary was 16 x 20 feet on the southeast corner of town lot 7 in the southwest division. This was purchased from Henry Howser for $20. The plans for this building were drawn by Col. M. L. Smith.

One would think after reading the specifications for the new jail that the concern of the Grand Jury in 1860 about the safety of the jail "...ought to be repaired for there is no use of a jail unless it is made secure" had been appeased.

The jail was found to be unsafe soon after it was completed. Dissatisfaction continued until a grand jury in 1880 recommended that a "good and sufficient jail" be constructed to replace the log-board building that was built in 1871. That one had been judged to be "wholly unfit for the purpose designed."

The **Historic Dawson County Jail** was built in 1881 and served the county as a jail until 1977 when a larger more modern building was built.

The Old Historic Dawson County Jail
Dawson County Historical Society

McGinty Construction Company of Athens was paid $3,670, according to a contract dated July 9, 1881, to build this "two-story, Italianate-style structure with a hipped roof." It was constructed of red brick and the specifications for the jail called for the first story to consist of a central hall, eight feet wide, and three rooms for use of the jailer, and the second story to contain two cells built of wood. Most

of the time, the downstairs rooms were used as living quarters for the jailer's family.

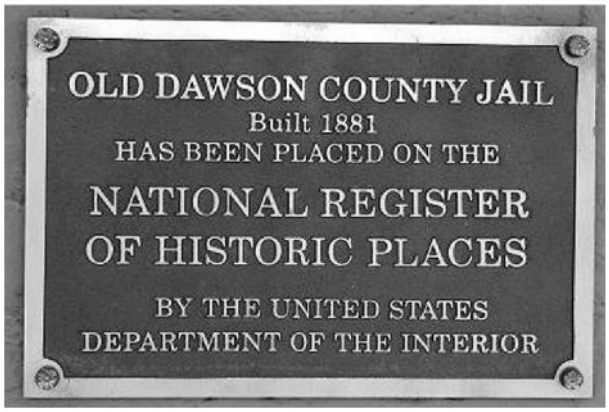
There have been several stories told about escapes from the jail over the years. One report was in the *Atlanta Constitution*, dated January 27, 1896: While Sheriff Hill was away from home, Oregon Smith, John Baker, and John Barrett broke jail and made good their escape. They reached through the "feed hole" of the main door and took off the lock. Once in the corridor they made a rope of blankets, let themselves down and made their escape.

An attempt was made in 1903 to burn that jail. This was tried by unhappy "boarders". Attempts were made to escape and some accomplished this in various ways including typing sheets together and using a can opener to cut through the tin roof. Some of these attempts caused the Grand Jury to recommend a cement floor and steel cages.

In 1931 renovations to the jail were made by Manley Jail Works of Dalton, and the wooden cells were replaced with steel. Later, two additional cells were added to house women prisoners.

Over the years there were other changes such as two rooms, built of wood, added to the rear of the building to provide an extra bedroom and a pantry-storage room for the jailer's family. A bathroom was added at the rear of the central hall, and in 1974, a concrete block room was added to be used as the sheriff's office. The sheriff's office had been in the courthouse prior to this time.

The red brick building just west of the Courthouse Square continued to serve as the jail until a new building was completed in 1977. For several years the "Old Jail" stood mostly abandoned. It served for a short time as an antique shop, as headquarters for the county's Emergency Medical Services, and as headquarters for a privately-funded organization designed to rehabilitate teenage delinquents.

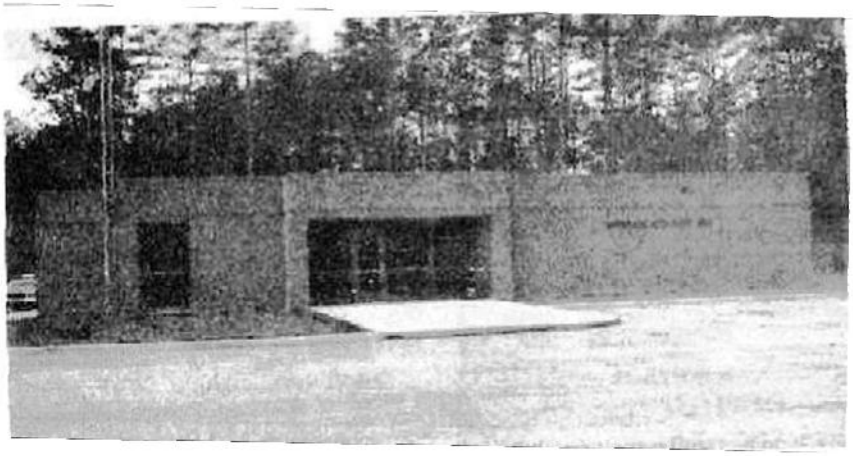


This sign can be found today on the Old Jail
Pat Floyd Collection

County officials were not interested in spending tax dollars on renovation of the building despite the fact the structure had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 and the building was deemed worthy of preservation.

The Dawson County Chamber of Commerce needed a building with space for a welcome center and saw some possibilities in the derelict-looking structure. The Dawson County Historical and Genealogical Society were eager to have the jail restored and preserved. In the mid 1990's with the cooperation of several businesses, organizations, individuals and county officials, the building was turned into a nice welcome center with a unique historic atmosphere and the site was preserved. The Chamber continued to use the building until 2012 when a building was purchased near the Joe Lane Cox intersection of Georgia 400 and Highway 53 east of Dawsonville.

After the Chamber of Commerce moved to the new facility, the bottom floor of the "Old Jail" became office space for the Ninth District Opportunity of Dawson County and the top floor, still containing the cells, continued as storage space for some historical artifacts.



This picture of the 1977 Jail was found in the Dawson County News Collection

The **1977 jail** was a few hundred yards north on Shoal Creek Road. Open House for the new Dawson County Jail was held on August 20, 1977. The building continued to serve as the jail until the new Law Enforcement Center was completed. With the completion of the new Center, the 1977 building became a storage building behind the Law Enforcement Center

Law Enforcement Center
Faye Bruce Collection

COURTHOUSES

The **Historic Dawson County Courthouse** built in 1858 continued to serve the county until a larger and more modern building was constructed in 1978. Before work began on the new County Courthouse in 1978, the old courthouse had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and it had been agreed that it be maintained and not destroyed. After the new courthouse was completed and opened for business, however, the old courthouse continued to deteriorate and was finally closed and condemned as unsafe.

In 1983 the Dawson County Women's Club launched a feasibility study to determine the practicality and cost of preserving and restoring the century old building. Governor Joe Frank Harris, spurred by local legislators and citizens, gave the project $10,000 from the Governor's Contingency Fund, as "seed money". Later, he helped the county get a $30,000 grant. Other financial contributions came from Women's Club and other organizations' projects and from citizens' donations.

Much of the work which had to be done by professionals was contracted at discount. Finally, two

events helped the project to completion: Joe Conowal, a local builder, donated much of his own time and labor in planning and supervising the finishing processes, and in 1989 some funds from a local option sales tax were designated for the renovation.

At long last, on June 6, 1990, Governor and Mrs. Harris and other dignitaries joined about 200 local residents in celebration with a ribbon cutting and Open House.

After its renovation, the Historic Old Courthouse was continuously in use and became the oldest working courthouse in the state. The upstairs courtroom was used for civil cases during Superior Court sessions and for Magistrate's Court. The downstairs offices became home to the Voter Registrar's Office and the local office of Ninth District Opportunity. After the Government Center was constructed in 2012, the historic courthouse provided office space for the Public Defenders staff and two rooms became the office and display space for the Dawson County Historical and Genealogical Society.

One of the oldest pictures of the Historic Courthouse
Diane Dale Turner Collection

Governor Harris and Joe Lane Cox at the Ribbon Cutting and Open House
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

The **1978 courthouse** was located one block from the Historic Courthouse on Shoal Creek Road.

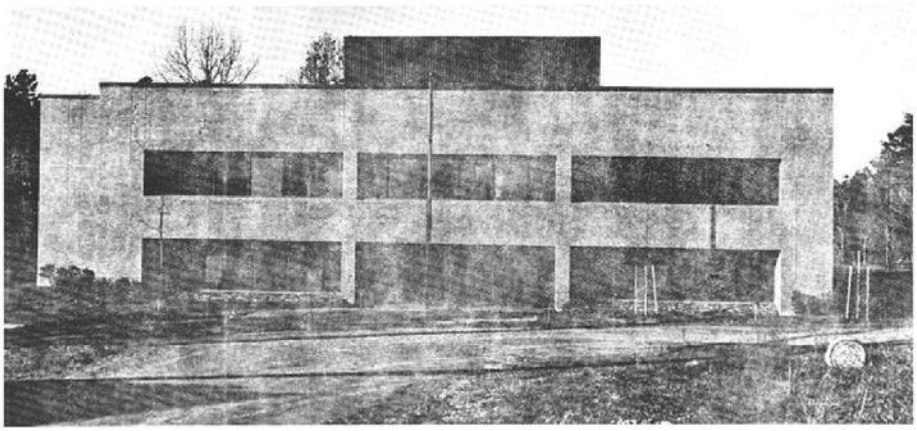
Ground breaking ceremonies for the third Dawson County Courthouse were held April 25, 1977. The new courthouse was constructed with a grant obtained from the Economic Development Administration.

The dedication of the new Dawson County Courthouse Building was on December 17, 1978 with the Honorable Ed Jenkins, U. S. Congressman, as the guest speaker.

This third Dawson County Courthouse was demolished in February 2012 after the New Government Center was built.

In 2012 the new **Dawson County Government Center** and the new **Law Enforcement Center** were constructed near the 1978 Courthouse.

With the growth of the county and a need for better security, a new courthouse was needed. In April 2007, the county's consultant for programming services submitted recommendations to the Board for the courthouse and administrative building to be a level one project for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax V funds. In August of 2007, the Board approved SPLOST V. This appeared on the November 2007 ballot and was approved by 87.4% of the voters.



DEDICATION

FOR THE
DAWSON COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
FACILITY
DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA

Dedication for the Dawson County Courthouse This Courthouse was demolished in 2012 Dawson County Historical Society Collection

This structure provides the community with a building that should remain and function well into the future.

The county built for the future when the Law Enforcement Center and the Government Center were connected for safety and convenience on the same property. These buildings are located on Shoal Creek Road near downtown Dawsonville.

Dawson County Government Center
Pat Floyd Collection

Chapter 7

ROADS

The state of the roads in Dawson County was reported in the following 1901 Preliminary Report on the Roads and Road-Building Materials of Georgia by S. W. McCallie, Assistant Geologist and W. S. Yeates, State Geologist:

Dawson County - Area, 192 square miles; approximate road mileage, 375; number of miles of graded road, 0; number of miles of macadamized road, 0; amount of money annually raised for public-road purposes, 0. Hands work, on an average, about nine days each year. The roads are constructed and maintained by statute labor.

Topographically, Dawson County is broken and in places it becomes quite mountainous. The construction of first-class roads in the county will always be an expensive undertaking, due to the cost of grading. The county is well supplied with granite, gneiss etc., suitable for road-surfacing. Hornblende-schist is quite abundant in this county; at many places, when decomposed, it gives rise to the red hills. Trap rock is reported at a number of localities in the county; but its extent and mode of occurrence have not been investigated. The roads of Dawson County, at the time of the writer's visits, were found to be in fair condition, for a hilly district. Some of the roads, in places, have very steep grades; but, in many cases, these difficulties could be overcome by re-locating the roads; while in others, expensive grading would have to be resorted to, in order to construct first-class roadways with easy grades.

The citizens of the county appear to be satisfied with the present system of road maintenance; or, at any rate, the question of changing their plan seems not to have been generally discussed.

The following is from the research and writings of local historian James Roosevelt Tatum:

Dawsonville is not located in the center of the county, but we will call it that. The roads running north and south generally followed a ridge or ridges. We will mention some of the early leading roads using Dawsonville as the center. There was a road from Dahlonega to Dawsonville to Cumming by way of Silver City. Another road ran from Dawsonville to Gainesville by way of Gober, Crossville, Bright, Dixon, Cogborn, and War Hill. Another road ran west from Dawsonville leading to Marble Hill and Ball Ground.

The other roads were thought of as settlement roads and generally led from the main road into a community or joined main roads. All the roads had to be kept up or in traveling condition. Don't think the county spent much money on roads and but little on bridges. Most streams were forded. I well remember when the men in each community of a certain age had to work on the roads a certain number of days each year. I started working the road when I was sixteen years of age.

It is amazing that most of the old leading roads became highways. They did not follow the old roadbed but in the same direction and served the same purpose.

In May 1932 *The Atlanta Constitution* reported that a newly graded highway had been opened, providing the first smooth link between Gainesville, Tate, Ellijay, Canton, Dawsonville and other northwestern Georgia cities. Activities included a motorcade with more than 300 leading citizens participating.

During the 1930s, Highway 19 and Highway 53 were paved. Over the years more and better roads were constructed in all parts of the county.

In an article in the *Dawson County Advertiser*, dated June 29, 1980, it was stated:

Early roads in the county looked a lot like this and needed much work to become suitable for travel.
Lanier Swafford Collection

"Dawson County had been one of the few counties left in Georgia which could boast of a 'traffic light-less' rural purity---until last week. The new section of Georgia 400 which stretches from Highway 206 in Forsyth County to just across Highway 53 in eastern Dawson County was officially opened June 11, complete with an intersection with eight traffic signals."

Georgia 400 made travel from Atlanta to the mountains much better and faster. The four-lane highway leads from Atlanta through Dawson County into Lumpkin County and carries a great deal of traffic, especially weekend recreation seekers, through Dawson County. The expected rash of development along the highway also occurred including convenience stores, fast-food restaurants and shopping centers.

BRIDGES

The eastern part of Dawson County was separated from Hall County by the Chestatee River. Most of the water of Dawson County emptied into the Etowah River. The Amicalola River ran north and south through the western part of the county. Between the Etowah River and the Amicalola River was Shoal Creek which emptied into the Etowah. These were the largest streams in the county and each had smaller streams emptying into them.

James Roosevelt Tatum wrote that in the early days there were few if any bridges. To get on the other side of the stream travelers forded it at a shallow place in the stream. The roads were laid out leading to these particular spots. The fords were rather safe normally but when it rained and the stream got up it was dangerous. Lives, animals, and vehicles could be lost. It was nice to drive a team of horses, mules or oxen into a ford and let them drink.

As things got better, bridges were built at or near the old fords. The bridges were built of wood, some were open and some were covered. The pillars were built of rock; one pillar on each bank and, if a wide stream, pillars were built in midstream. Later the bridge frame was built of iron with a wooden floor; then bridges were built of iron and concrete. Most fords and bridges were named after families of the people who built them.

Many bridges were built over the years including the following:

Afton Bridge, one of the last covered bridges in the county, was located on the Big Amicalola Creek. This bridge was replaced in 1959 with a new bridge when the road was rerouted and paved.

Hockenhull Bridge, over the Etowah River, was built to connect Hockenhull Hall to the road toward Dawsonville. An unauthorized salvager tried to remove the bridge which destroyed it with only a small part of it still remaining. It was abandoned and what remains is located in the Dawson Forest area.

Hockenhull Bridge
Dawson County Historical Society

Steele's Bridge
Dawson County Historical Society

Steele's Bridge, across the Amicalola Creek, was located about seven miles northwest of Dawsonville. The construction was of the Town Lattice type made of rough sawn pine, oak and poplar woods. This bridge was constructed in 1897, but burned in 1976. A new bridge was built in 1980 using steel trusses.

Tucker Covered Bridge was across Shoal Creek on the road west of Dawsonville toward Marble Hill. This bridge was replaced by a concrete bridge when Georgia Highway 53 was rerouted and paved.

Old Tucker Covered Bridge
Betty Tatum Turner Collection

AMICALOLA FALLS

William W. Williamson was the adjutant general and sub-commander of the Georgia Guards assigned to survey the area for the upcoming 1832 land lottery, when he wrote a letter to Governor Wilson Lumpkin:

"I passed the mountain town of Ellijay and several other smaller towns that I did not learn their names. In the course of my route in the mountains, I discovered a waterfall, perhaps the greatest in the world, and most majestic scene I have ever witnessed or heard of. The creek passes over the fall and the mountain is at least three-fourths a mile high. I made great exertion to get to the summit, but the ascent was so great that I was completely exhausted by the time I reached halfway. My position is such that I had a perfect view of the entire fall."

1902 photograph of Amicalola Falls Lisa Lee Collection

This was quoted in an article in 1992 by J. B. Hill found in the *Pickens County Progress*. What Mr. Williamson found was Amicalola Falls which is fed by Little Amicalola Creek and located in the northern part of Dawson County. This is the highest falls east of the Mississippi River with a height of 729 feet. The name comes from the Cherokee "Um-Ma Calo La" which means "tumbling waters."

The upper part falls free, while the middle and lower portions cascade through a steep, rocky terrain. Until the state built a road, the only way to get to the top was by foot up the sides of the falls, and a number of people have lost their lives while attempting this.

Many improvements to the Falls were noted on a visit for the first time in several years by a writer for the *Dawson County Advertiser* on November 4, 1938. H. B. Fausett and J. H. Crane had added comfort for the travelers. The grounds had been cleared for picnicking; a service station and tourist cabins had been built. Electricity was powered by a dynamo and an over-shot wheel installed in Amicalola Creek.

In March 1940, Governor E. D. Rivers and a group of state officials toured North Georgia on an inspection of highways connecting state parks. On their return to Atlanta the party stopped at Amicalola Falls. There were members of the State Highway Board, the highway engineer, director of state parks, director of the state wild life division and supervisor of the state forces for the highway department.

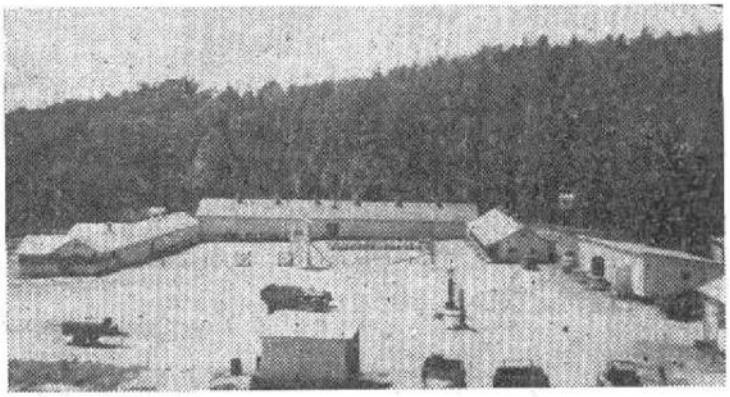
Service Station with cabins located behind Elaine Gray Collection

On August 15, 1940, Amicalola Falls scenic highway, one of Governor Rivers' pet projects was halted. A strike of approximately 120 men resulted from a discontinuance of a boarding house that had been operated for the employees. The highway under construction ran from Jasper to Amicalola Falls, one of the natural wonders of Georgia, thence to Dawsonville, Dahlonega and Gainesville, and traversed Tate Mountain Estates in Pickens County.

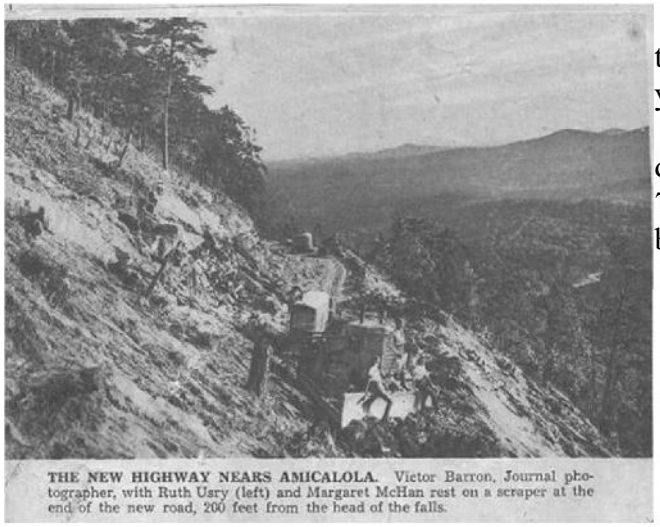
H. H. Johnson, Georgia Highway Department Supervisor wrote an article entitled "New Road to Hidden Beauty":

"The scene could be reached only by a rough footpath until this fall, but the Highway Department is now completing a hard-surfaced road from Dawsonville which ends in two forks, one at the top of the falls and the other at the bottom. The State Parks Department plans to begin work soon on a lake and recreational facilities at the head of the falls."

A public works camp was established by Governor Rivers located about halfway up Johntown Mountain near Amicalola Falls on Highway 52. The 1940 Dawson County census for Gilmer Cut-off listed the men at this "Convict Camp." The camp maintained more than 150 prisoners. Roads were constructed in four directions, intersecting at the Amicalola Falls, with most of the roads paved with asphalt. A beautiful drive to Amicalola Falls with an almost complete paved road carries you to the foot of Amicalola Mountain where the falls may be viewed. The summit of the mountain may be reached, but the road is not paved.



This picture of Convict Camp was found in *Dawson County Advertiser* - October 17, 1941



THE NEW HIGHWAY NEARS AMICALOLA. Victor Barron, Journal photographer, with Ruth Usry (left) and Margaret McHan rest on a scraper at the end of the new road, 200 feet from the head of the falls.

The Atlanta Constitution reported June 25, 1941, that the Public Works Camp, in operation for four years, moved from Dawson County.

In January 1942, the state closed the gate at the dam across Little Amicalola Creek just above the 729-foot falls. This lake covering several acres became a part of the Amicalola Falls State Park and was stocked with trout.

Lake at top of Amicalola Falls showing the dock
Lisa Lee Collection (July 1943)

Betty Anderson Love found this in her mother's scrapbook showing the start of a road to top of Amicalola Falls

The park superintendent in 1976 had to row a boat out in the lake to open the safety valve so the water would not overflow the dam. This happened each time there was a heavy rain. The tragic loss of life caused by the dam break at Toccoa Falls on November 6, 1977, led to the draining of a number of lakes in North Georgia including Amicalola Lake.

Amicalola Falls State Park, consisting of 1,020 acres, is one of Georgia's

outstanding parks with a number of covered picnic shelters, a few small rustic cabins at the bottom of the falls and several attractive cabins at the top. In July 1990, a four-story lodge with 57 guest rooms and six conference rooms was constructed at the top of the Amicalola Mountain. A restaurant with a seating capacity of 200 is open to the public.

Guests arrive on foot at the Len Foote Hike Inn after hiking a five-mile interpretive trail through Amicalola Falls State Park and the Chattahoochee National Forest. The Len Foote Hike Inn, named for noted Georgia conservationist and author the late Len Foote, is a 7,400 square foot facility that offers individual sleeping quarters, a central restroom and shower facilities with hot and cold water. Two hearty meals are served daily. From the glass- enclosed sunrise room, there is a panoramic view of Springer Mountain.

This lodge can be used as an over-night accommodation on the way up to the Appalachian Trail approach below Springer Mountain. Hikers can use it as a base camp for exploring many other trails in the area.

Early sign for
Amicalola Falls State Park
Lisa Lee Collection

Howser Mill
Pat Floyd Collection

MILLS

In the late 1860s, Thomas Howser, Henry Howser, and Josephus Castleberry built a corn and wheat mill and a cotton gin on Howser Mill Road just west of Dawsonville. Mr. Castleberry sold his interest to the Howser brothers in 1874 making it the **Howser Mill**. The corn and wheat mill was run by the water power of Shoal Creek. The structures for the mill and gin are still standing today.

Gooch Mill was located on what is now Bailey-Waters Road in northern Dawson County.

Jenkins Mill, a turbine and hammer mill, was located in Landrum Community on the Etowah River above Highway 53 East Bridge.

McDougal Mill was located on the Amicalola River opposite Hubbardsville and near Barrettsville.

In an article in the *Dawson County Advertiser*, James Roosevelt Tatum listed the following mills:

The **Anderson Mill** was between McKee and Purdysville on the Pigeon Creek, it was mentioned in the Anderson brief. This was later called the **Parks Mill**.

Blacks Mill was located in Black District south of Lumpkin County Campground. It was operated by the Black Family.

Boling Mill was on the Chestatee River in Hall County. It was noted as a flour mill.

Covington Gin and Mill was in the west part of the county in Yellow Creek. It was operated by the Covingtons.

Crawford Mill was in the vicinity of Crawford Falls.

Densmore Mill was in the Afton community on the Amicalola River. This was a corn mill run by power from a dam that had been built.

Elliott Gin was operated by the Elliotts near Bright.

Gober Mill was at Dougherty.

There may have been more than one **Harben Mill**. There was one northeast of Juno on the road between McKee and Emma.

The **Heard Mill** or factory was on the Amicalola River, south of Hollingshed Bridge at the Heard Shoals.

Holcomb Mill was in Yellow Creek, not far from the county line.

There may have been two **Hubbard Mills**, one at Potts Mountain and one at Hubbardsville, both in Yellow Creek.

The **Kelly Mill** was south of the Anderson Mill on the same stream.

The **Logan and the McDougle Mill** may have been the same, located on Shoal Creek not too far from its mouth.

The **McClure Mill and the Palmour Mill** were in the Savannah District, north of Dougherty.

Howser Cotton Gin
Pat Floyd Collection

The **McGhee Mill** was at Barrettsville and the **Looper Mill** was in the same section.

The **Milsap Mill** was in Yellow Creek and was operated by gas or oil.

Camping at the Densmore Mill
Pat Floyd Collection

The **Nix Gin** was north of Lumpkin Campground and east of the main road. They could have had a mill, also.

The **Whittmore corn mill and saw mill** was located in Purdy's.

The **Sludder Mill** was in the section of the old road from Dawsonville to Sweetwater community.

Tucker Mill was west of Dawsonville on Highway 53 West.

Robert's Mill was in Yellow Creek near the county line.

The **Tatum Mill** was between McKee and Emma.

The **Gentry Mill** was near the Dawson-Cherokee line where the new reservoir was built.

There were others that I have heard of including Bennett, Clark, Gilleland, Goode, Spriggs, Strickland, White and Waters Mills.

SAWMILLS

The hills of North Georgia were too steep for a lot of farming, but trees grew in abundance. In the early days, the timber cutters did not clear-cut like the timber cutters later. They only cut the trees that could be carried to the mills by horse and mule.

After World War II, many of the returning soldiers in the county returned to working at the saw mills. Homes and chicken houses were being built, so the need for lumber was much greater.

Until the late 1950s and early ’60s, the heating and cooking at home was mostly with wood. The slabs, or the piece of the trees that included the bark and not used for lumber, was discarded at the mill. People would come to the mill in wagons or trucks and haul the slabs away to be used for fuel at home.

Large sawmill from back in the past
Diane Bishop Collection

The poultry farmers would get sawdust and shavings from the mill to put in the chicken houses. There was not a charge for the slabs and sawdust by the mill owners.

Over time the small saw millers have become a thing of the past, with all the large timber companies buying land and having their own mills.

Chapter 8

In his writings and remembrances in the *Dawson County Advertiser*, local historian James Roosevelt Tatum described the city of Dawsonville about 1920:

As a boy I well remember my father attending court regularly, serving on the grand and traverse juries. He would put on his Sunday clothes, leave home early and always walk. Then I got big or old enough to go to court, it must have been in my early teens. Court week was an important week for the county as well as the people. It was a time for politics. People came on foot, on animals, in buggies and wagons before the days of cars. Animals would be tied all over town to posts, trees, buildings and vehicles as there were not enough stables for them. Most people carried feed for their animals so there was a lot of neighing and braying about dinner time.

Horse trading was part of the occasion. A horse trader was always there. Most of the hitching and trading was east of the Atlanta and south of the Gainesville roads. There was some hitching space north of the court house and jail house. There was generally some whiskey and brandy drinking going on. The little brown jug and fruit jars were found in the buggies while bottles were carried on the person.

John McClure built a stable next to R.D. McClure's Store; this centralized the horse trading business and ended the traveling trader.

It was the same court house that is there today with a few alterations and different landscaping. It was on or in the square with trees and later a rock wall around it. I understand there had been a fence around it, this I don't remember. The windows had green wooden shades or shutters over them. The four doors were double and painted white. There was a well on the east side and one on the west side. They had a shed and roof over them. I believe the curbs were changed from wood to cement.

The square was bounded by a rock wall. Beginning at **R.D. McClure's Store (1),** it ran to the **Moore or Richardson Hotel (2)**, to **E. McClure Store (3)**, by the print shop, to the **Masonic Building (4)**, to the **Farmers & Citizens Bank (5)** thence to the beginning point. The court house was in the center with roads on all sides. These roads were red clay, or mud in rainy weather. West of the bank was an old store building and further west was the **Empire Hotel (6)**.

Beyond the cemetery a road crosses and the road running north only goes a short distance. I remember two houses, the one on the west **Millholland-Howard (7)** and the one on the east **Castleberry-Harben-Roper (8).** These houses were built by the Howsers. The south end had no houses on it until it ran into Maple Street. The part from the cemetery south was called Buckhorn. On the north side of the road was a field where Homer Etris later built his home. Then Tucker's pasture before reaching the Dr. Burt home place occupied later by Mrs. Brown, Hoyt Brannon, Bolings, Andrews and Castleberrys. The house burned sometime along the way and the present one was built. Next were the jail and some kind of a building between there and the Masonic building. Beyond the cemetery on the south side was a pasture (Vandiviere). Then came the **Dr. Thompson-Vandiviere house (9)** with a street between it and **the Empire or Chandler Hotel (6).** The building had been occupied by Duncan, Boling and Thomas before Chandler. A street ran between the hotel and an old store building occupied by John O. Boling later used by doctors, print shop and post office. On the same block was the Farmers & Citizens Bank. It was built of concrete block, the first block building I ever saw. I think the blocks were made by Uncle Jord Anderson, "Little Jord". Between the bank and **R. D. McClure's Store (1)** was the old **Howser Hotel (10)**. When I first remember that spot it had some old chimneys standing after the building

had been burned. Hoyt Brannon built a fine bungalow home there. It was later occupied by Dr. Chastain and the Slaton family.

I suppose the first road running south from Dawsonville started between the Boling Store and the Empire hotel. The hotel had a big barn next to it. I understand here is where the first Methodist Church stood. Next to the Boling Store was the Grogan, Hammond garage and a blacksmith shop, Sitton-CowartLingerfelt. Beyond Academy Street there was a garden on either side and then the Kelley home on the west and a building on the east used as a general store, a funeral supply store and a barber shop. The Kelley barn was south of the store building. The road turned square to the right in front of the Methodist Church.

McClure's Store
Cliff McClure Collection

Below is a more detailed description of the buildings mentioned in Mr. Tatum's articles describing the City of Dawsonville in 1920.

R.D. McClure's Store (1) was built between 1874 and 1883 according to old deed records. The Dawsonville Lodge #74 I.O.O.F. (International Order of the Odd Fellows) used the second story of the building as a meeting hall starting in the 1880s and continuing for many years.

The building was used by three generations of the McClure family for a general merchandise store. John N. McClure and Robert N. McClure ran the store for several years under the name John N. McClure & Company. R. D. (Doyle) McClure ran the store beginning about 1910. Clifton McClure worked with R. D. and the company name became R.D. McClure & Son. Clifton McClure ran the store until his retirement in 1978.

After Mr. McClure's retirement, several different businesses have come and gone including a drug store and an antique shop. In 2014, Creative Visions Salon and Pick & Grin Music are two businesses in the old McClure Store.

Moore or Richardson Hotel (2) was bought from Mr. J.F. Castleberry by a Mrs. Moore and her daughter Zelia who married Walter Richardson. They operated a hotel there until the property was sold to Mrs. Ida Fouts. She ran a hotel there named the Fouts Hotel. The ground floor of this building later became Harben Brothers Grocery and the family of Sherman and Lula Harben lived upstairs.

In the early 1940s, Taft Fouts' General Store was built on the hotel property site. The building served as a grocery store through the mid-1990s when it was renovated into restaurant space and became home to several restaurants. In 2014 the building was renovated and reopened as an

Harben Brothers Grocery
Lisa Lee Collection

antique store.

The Harben Brothers Service Station, next door to the hotel, was built by Ida Fouts in 1932. The building was rented from Mrs. Fouts for a penny for every gallon of gas the station sold when gas was 14 cents a gallon. The station was the first 24-hour service station in the region. Ida Fouts' son, Taft, worked for the Harbens in his youth and bought the station when he returned from World War II in 1945. It continued to operate as a gas station or automotive-related business until 2006.

The Harben Brothers Service Station was restored by the Fouts family and reopened as an antique store.

Harben Brothers Service Station
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

E. McClure Store (3) was located on the north side of the square in Dawsonville. Earlier this store may have been called the D.M. McKee and J. H. McClure Store. Egbert McClure's Department Store and Warehouse advertised everything from shoes for the family to everything you need on the farm. This building was destroyed by fire in March of 1921. This store-warehouse also housed the post office and the *Dawsonville Advertiser*. According to *The Atlanta Constitution*, Mr. McClure carried a stock of approximately $20,000 and had about the same amount of notes and accounts, with no insurance.

The Old Dawson County Masonic Lodge and Tucker's Store (4) was built in the likeness of the old Dawson County Courthouse. Mr. W. S. "Bill" Tucker had his store on the first floor with a post office on the left side of the front entrance. At the back of the building the stairs led to the Masonic Lodge on the second floor. Later there was an addition built on one side, and used once as a sewing room.

Store of D.M.Mckee and J.H.McClure in 1890s. North side of Square,
Dawsonville, GA. L to R Harben, Col. Bishop, A. Carvey, J. Byrd,
Jim McClure, Dave McKee, Dale McClure, Jim Martin, Horatio Tatum,

D.M. McKee and J. H. McClure Store.
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

The location of this building was on the same side of the street and next to the old Dawson County Jail facing Highway 53 West. This building was torn down in 1955 or 1956.

Etowah Masonic Lodge No. 222, Free and Accepted Masons, was chartered October 25, 1858, in Dawsonville, Georgia, by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons

for the State of Georgia. Masonry is one of the largest and oldest fraternal organizations in the world. It aims to promote brotherhood and to foster morality among its members. Etowah Lodge supports the Masonic Children's Home of Georgia, Shrine Burn Hospital, Scottish Rite Hospital, and the Eye Foundation, just to name a few. Locally they provide a scholarship for a deserving high school senior.

Old Tucker Store & Masonic Lodge & Old Post Office

The Old Dawson County Masonic Lodge and Tucker's Store

The first meeting of the Etowah Lodge was held on March 9, 1858, near Barrettsville at the house of Brother John Hockenhull in Dawson County.

At the meeting of April 27, 1858, the lodge voted to purchase a lot in the town of Dawsonville for the purpose of building a Masonic Hall. The deed was recorded May 19, 1859, in Deed Book A, 1858-1867, page 195. The Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia met in Dawsonville on July 4th, 1859, to dedicate the Lodge Hall.

At a meeting on January 1, 1952, the lodge voted to appoint a building committee for a new lodge building. There was an agreement in open lodge to sell the old lodge building for $400.00 and buy a new lot from Mrs. Maude Howard for $300.00. At a January 15, 1952 meeting, a collection was taken for a new lodge building. Most of the work was done by the members who worked hard to complete the building.

Masonic Hall as it looks today-2014
Pat Floyd Collection

The Masonic Hall building served many purposes in addition to being the meeting place for the Masons. The first floor served as the Public Library, a training center for local industries, AA meetings, Driver Improvement Clinic, Cub Scouts, Weight Watchers, a feed store and more recently served as the place for the annual spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the lodge.

Farmers & Citizens Bank (5) – An article in the *Dawson County Advertiser*, dated Saturday, August 26, 1911, reported the following information on a new bank in Dawsonville, Georgia:

"Affords are being made to organize the Farmers and Citizens Bank of Dawsonville into a State Bank, with $15,000.00 capital. We feel that our good citizens will readily subscribe this amount and thus make our bank a permanent organization. We learn thru our cashier that the bank is enjoying a splendid business this year and our people should take hold of this proposition and enjoy the profits themselves. Mr. John D. Walker will still be President and Financial Agent."

In her research and writings local historian Rebekah Wilson stated: The Farmers and Citizens Bank was destined to close its doors in 1921 taking the savings of many of the citizens of the county. This plus

the closing of banks in 1929 caused many to be wary of anything which might resemble a bank in the most remote way.

There was not another bank in the county until Dawson County Bank was established in 1953 with Directors H. Grady Vandiviere, L. H. Burt, Carlton Gilleland, Silvey Harben, and Len Taylor. Until his death in 1977, H. Grady Vandiviere served as Chairman of the Board. The bank opened in the same location formerly occupied by the Farmers and Citizens Bank with two employees, W. T. Howell as the bank's first Cashier and Hazel Burt Stowers as Assistant Cashier. Other executive officers have been Guy Borden, John Stiller, J.J. Atkins, Hugh Boling, Guy Freeman, Glenn Bell and Don Gordon.

Original Bank Building
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

In 1964 a new building was built on the same location and served the bank until 1987 when a new and much larger building was constructed west of the old courthouse on Highway 53. A branch office was established on Highway 53 near Georgia 400 and a third facility at Hammonds Crossing in Forsyth County. In 2000, the Dawson County Bank merged with the United Community Bank of Blairsville and continues to serve the citizens of Dawson County.

First Community Bank of Dawson County opened in May 1991 as reported in the *Dawson County Advertiser*. There was a large group on hand for the special festivities, with Commissioner Joe Lane Cox cutting the ribbon. This bank was purchased by BB&T and is located in a shopping center at the Intersection of Highway 53 and Georgia 400.

Chestatee State Bank opened in 1998 and was purchased by the Bank of the Ozarks in 2010. They have locations in Dawsonville on Highway 53 East and just east of the Intersection of Georgia 400 and Highway 53 East.

Mountain State Bank opened in 2003. This bank was purchased by SunTrust Bank and is located on Highway 53 East near Georgia 400.

First Citizens Bank of Georgia was organized in 2006 and opened the following year. A branch office was established on Bethel View Road in Forsyth County. The name of the bank was changed to Foothills Community Bank in January of 2014. The ownership remained the same and the name change did not change any of their banking relationships. The Foothills Community Bank is located near the intersection of Carlisle Road and Georgia 400.

Regions Bank opened a branch bank on Highway 53 East near Georgia 400.

Appalachian Community Bank was purchased by Community & Southern Bank. The C&S sold the buildings in Dawsonville on Highway 53 East to the Dawson County Board of Education but kept the building located on Dawson Forrest Road near Georgia 400.

Over the years there have been new banks formed, banks going out of business, and banks buying out banks. Banks changed as the needs of the citizens changed.

Empire Hotel or Chandler Hotel (6) was located on Town Lot # 18 Southwest. This was the home of Mrs. Martha White Thomas Chandler. She was the widow of Capt. J. B. Thomas and the mother of Maude Thomas Howard, the owner and publisher of the *Dawson County Advertiser*.

The hotel was on a bank, and had wide spacious porches on two sides of the house both upstairs and down. It consisted of eight large rooms, four upstairs and four downstairs. The kitchen and dining rooms were separated from these rooms by a small hall and there was a back porch for the kitchen. The property consisted of a large barn, barn lot and garden.

On her 80th birthday, Mrs. Martha J. Thomas Chandler was the subject of an article in the *Dawson County Advertiser* on November 16, 1945. The article stated that the hotel had become a rooming house. After Mrs. Chandler's death, Gene Gilleland's Gulf Oil Station was built on this site in 1951. After Mr. Gilleland's retirement forty years later, the building reopened as a tire shop and in 2007 was restored to its original appearance as a Gulf gas station and reopened as Dawsonville's first package liquor store

Empire Hotel
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

Castleberry-Harben-Roper House under the trees
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

Milhollin House (7) was one of the oldest houses in Dawsonville, built by Henry Houser in 1858 and owned in 1937 by J. H. Milhollin of Broxton, Georgia. A strip shopping center with several stores and a restaurant was built on this lot.

Castleberry-Harben-Roper House (8) was last occupied by Miss Della Roper. Miss Roper rented part of the house to teachers and other ladies. The house is still standing in 2014 but is in very poor condition.

Burt-Vandiviere-Bearden House (9) was constructed by John Palmour before 1873. It was sold to and occupied by David J. Burt from February 1873 until he sold it to Dr. William H. Burt on October 11, 1880. Dr. Burt practiced medicine in the home from early 1882 until he sold it to Col. A.W. Vandiviere in December of

Burt-Vandiviere-Bearden House
Dawson County Historical Society
Third Annual Tour of Homes May 16, 1993

1902. Col. A.W. Vandiviere lived in the home until his death in November of 1943. His heirs E.C. and H.G. Vandiviere sold the home to Rachael Bearden Parks, sister of J. Andrew Bearden, who transferred the title to Mrs. J. Andrew Bearden in 1949. The "dayroom" in the rear was added by Andrew and Helen Bearden in the 1940s. The house originally had a separate kitchen in the rear. In 1984 one of the two chimneys was of field stone and the other made of handmade bricks. At the original site there was a cellar under the floor. J. Andrew and Helen Bearden remodeled and lived in the home from 1949 until after his death. Helen Bearden sold it to the Dawson County Bank in August of 1984. In 1986, George and Marie David purchased the house and moved it to its present location, the site of the old Tucker home place on Tucker Avenue which was owned by the Tucker family and their heirs, Annie Tucker Anderson, Edna Anderson Noblin and George David, since 1876. George and Marie restored the house and Marie operated a tea room there for a short period of time during the late 1980s. This house is still standing in the city of Dawsonville. After the Burt-Vandiviere-Bearden house was moved, Dawson County Bank built a new building on this site in 1987.

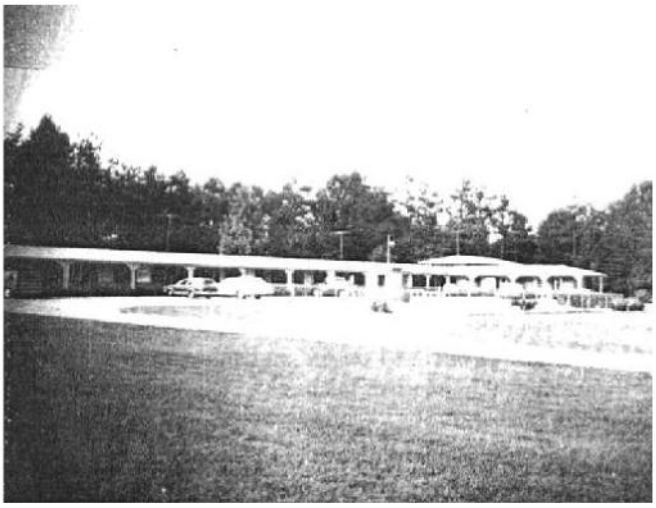
Howser Hotel
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

The **Howser Hotel (10)** was built in 1887 by Henry Howser and located on Lots #1, #2, and #3 in the Southwest section of Dawsonville. Lots #4, #5, and # 6 in the Southwest were used for a barn.

The hotel, a three-story, forty-room frame building burned in 1904. The origin of the fire is

unknown. At the time of the fire, John B. Thomas bought the hotel and moved his newspaper office into the building. Mr. Thomas had the first press ever used in Georgia at that time and it was burned in the fire.

In *The Atlanta Constitution* dated September 6, 1909, there was this information: The ancient Washington hand press upon which was printed the first newspaper ever published in Georgia was found by D. G. Bickers, editor of *The Herald* at Gainesville, Georgia. Mr. Bickers found the location and the remains in the rubbish of the old Howser Hotel by going into the underbrush and cutting away enough of the growth to gather together the pieces of the old machine. He got several Kodak pictures of the remnants of the printing days of a century ago.



Gilleland Motel –First Motel in Dawsonville
***Dawson County News and Advertiser* Collection**

Looper's Food Mart was built during the 1960s on the same site as the Howser Hotel. Earlier Hoyt Brannon built a house here that was later occupied by Dr. Chastain and then the Clayton Slaton family.

In 2014, B & K Sports is the business occupying the site of the old Howser Hotel.

Other stores built in Dawsonville were:

Richardson & Tuckers was located in the Howser house on south side of Public Square and advertised "Rock Bottom Prices" for meat, lard, sugar, coffee, syrup, meal, salt, etc.

Dawson County Real Estate Agency was listed in the May 1888 *Dawson County Advertiser* as being owned by Thomas J. Rickman, L. B. Beard and W. J. Tucker. In that same paper James M. Bishop was listed as Attorney-Counselor and Real Estate Agent with an office in the courthouse.

Robinson Service Station was across from the old courthouse on the north side. The last business was an auto parts store. The building is still standing in 2014.

Herman A. Grogan and Homer N. Grogan both ran businesses in the town of Dawsonville in the early days. Their stores were on the east side of town with general merchandise, gasoline and groceries.

Wayne Grogan Grocery and Service Station was next to the old bank building with an apartment above the store with living quarters for the family.

Wallace Service Station was where the Kangaroo Store is located in 2014.

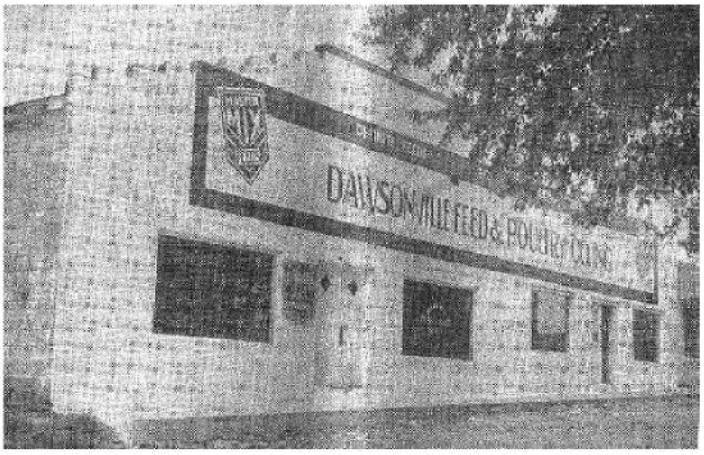
Paul Payne's Service Station and Wrecker Service was west of Dawsonville on Highway 53 West.

Gilleland Motel and Restaurant was located on Highway 53 West of Dawsonville. It was built around 1958 and included a 17-unit motel and a restaurant. The Red Carpet Inns and Master Host hospitality chain purchased the motel in 1980.

In September of 2012, the old Gilleland Motel, now called the Amicalola Lodge, was the location for several scenes of the Warner Brothers movie, *Trouble with the Curve*, with Clint Eastwood and Justin Timberlake.

The Gem Theater was in a building owned by Mr. Cliff McClure which stood where the Dawson County Health Department parking lot was later located. Two gentlemen, Earl Martin and Crafton Brooks of Forsyth County opened the Gem around 1949. In a fire on Christmas Eve 1966 the old theatre building, still owned by Mr. McClure and used for storage, was a complete loss.

Dawsonville Hardware Company was opened in 1947 by Carlton Gilleland and Andrew Bearden in a building owned by Mr. Bearden located south of the square in downtown Dawsonville. The building later became the Dawsonville Post Office and still later the building was sold to Mark Heard and was the Dawsonville location of Mark Heard Fuel Co. In 1948, Mr. Bearden's interest in the hardware business was purchased by Mr. Gilleland and moved to the current location south of the previous site.



Dawsonville Hardware Company
***Dawson News & Advertiser* Collections**

The business quickly began to expand. In the 1950s, the hardware part of the business continued in the front half of the building while chicken feed was manufactured in the back half. The feed was delivered to local poultry farmers in the area. During the late 1950s Dawsonville Hardware discontinued the chicken feed business to make way for a complete line of hardware.

During the 1960s and 1970s the store expanded and continued to grow, offering more and more necessary items for the home, office and farm.

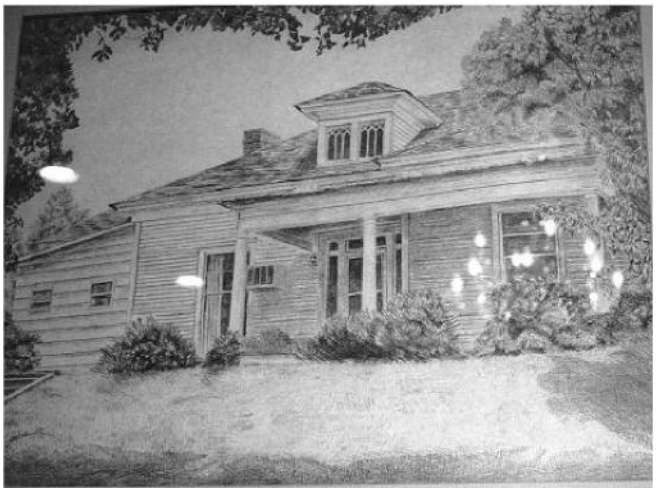
In 1977 Mr. Gilleland retired and his son, Dwight Gilleland, became the local Hardware Man. During the next few years more departments were created and in 1987 the store expanded to include feed, seed, and fertilizer, giving it a full line of farm and garden needs including outdoor power equipment repairs.

In 2014, walking into the Dawsonville Hardware Store is like walking into a store of yesteryear. There are plenty of modern and up-to-date tools and equipment, but there are also reminders of a simpler time gone by, like the seed that can be purchased in bulk, stored in jars behind the counter.

FUNERAL INDUSTRY

A funeral in the early days was a community affair. The neighbors went to the home and prepared the body, made the clothes, the coffin and dug the grave. The body most of the time was buried the following day. As time progressed and embalming became more prevalent, the funeral director would go to the home and prepare the body.

Later, when funeral homes began, the body, after embalming, was taken to the home of the person



A painting of Banister Funeral Home can be seen at the Bearden Funeral Home today. Pat Floyd Collection

or a family member. Family and friends would sit up all night for two or three days before the funeral.

The earliest organized funeral service in Dawsonville or Dawson County was in the 1940s. Sarah West and Roy Bailey opened a funeral home in a little building on Highway 9 North.

Later Hubert Vickers opened Vickers Funeral Home in the 1940-50s. Ralph Maddox operated the funeral home for Mr. Vickers until 1960 when Marion Merck became the director until Vickers Funeral Home closed in Dawsonville in 1965.

By the mid-1950s, Hugh Fields operated a funeral home for about three years on Highway 9 South just south of town.

Mr. Ford Banister operated a funeral home, starting in 1965, in a house owned by Taft Fouts on Highway 9 South which had been the Howard' home earlier.

Later Mr. Banister and his son, Larry, built a funeral home on Highway 53 east of town. Ted Bearden was employed by the Banisters beginning in 1970 until 1974 while he was a student in high school. In 1991, Mr. Bearden purchased the funeral home from Mr. Larry Banister.

Mr. Bearden, with his sons James Bearden and Wesley Bearden, has maintained, renovated and enlarged the facility to fit the needs of the growing population of the community.

Bearden Funeral Home
Pat Floyd Collection

HISTORIC HOMES

The W. J. Tucker House where the family lived for 61 years according to a *Dawson County Advertiser* issue published in 1937, was north of town on Shoal Creek Road. On Christmas Eve in 1966 the house, also known as the Roscoe Tucker House, was lost to fire.

The Palmour House was a two-over-two style design typical of the era; this structure is estimated to be over 120 years old. The home was purchased by Dr. Homer Palmour about 1906. He raised his family in the house and conducted his dental practice in a front room. The house previously included an ell wing of three rooms and a back porch and at one time had a small front porch.

The Boyd Gilleland House was a custom-built two story cottage built in 1929-1930 by Mr. Gilleland assisted by John Lowe who received 25 cents per hour in wages. The timbers for the house were cut some distance away and brought to the lot to a sawmill to saw the needed lumber. The house was constructed of horizontal lapboard and red brick. The interior was built with heart pine tongue and

grooved boards for the walls and floors. The house was built with a gabled roof with seven gables. In the front gables there were two arched windows with privacy glass in one and clear glass in the other. Red brick columns surrounded the front porch and carport. These columns were topped by slabs of white marble. There were six bedrooms and four fireplaces. Some of the fireplaces were marble and some were brick. The house had two bathrooms and was the first house in Dawsonville to have an indoor bathroom.

Dr. Homer Palmour house & dental office
Cliff McClure Collection

The Gilleland House is now known as the Peach Brandy Cottage and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Rainey Taylor House was built in the early 1900s and was quite a showplace. This was a Sears Roebuck Cottage with numerous special features including a wood inlaid mantle in the front room; the house also contained a butler's pantry. The original well is on the back porch. There were wide halls and a glassed book case. The dining room had plate molding and an interesting corner fireplace. The walls and ceiling were made of plaster. This property consisted of six city lots. Mr. Taylor was a rural mail carrier and a Superior Court Clerk in Dawson County. He purchased the house before 1926 and it remained in the Taylor family until the death of his daughter, Carol. The title was transferred in 1985 to the First Baptist Church of Dawsonville. After the sale of the house and property by the First Baptist Church of Dawsonville, several businesses have located on this site including a veterinarian and various offices.

Boyd Gilleland House
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

The Parks-Grogan-Tucker-Turner House was built in the late 1860s by Henry Johnson, an attorney. Over the years many families have lived there and raised families. In 1921, J. P. Chambers sold it to H.E. Parks. In 1934, Mr. Parks sold the house to his son-in-law Homer Grogan. The Grogans lived there until 1953 when Mr. Grogan sold the house to Roscoe Tucker. In 1958 in a property exchange with her brother, Roscoe, Mrs. Mamie Tucker acquired the house and she lived there until her death in 1976. Vera Turner received the house from her sister, Mrs. Tucker. At her death, Mrs. Turner left the house to her sons, Clinton and Kenneth. In 1994, Betty (Mrs. Kenneth Turner) bought Clinton's share of the house, and was the owner until her death.

The house was originally a two-on-two plantation plain house with a central chimney and a side hallway entrance with a stairway to the second floor. A kitchen and a dining room were attached to the house by a breezeway porch. The house was built with horizontal lapboard of wood. The interior walls are 12 feet high with plaster on ceilings and walls throughout. The house has also been known as the McClure/McKee house.

In 2014 this house is owned by Kenneth Turner and is located on Dahlonega Road (Highway 9/53) in the city of Dawsonville.

Rainey Taylor House
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

The Dr. Howard House was built around 1915 by the B. H. Howard Family and has served the community in a number of capacities including a funeral home for many years.

For over 65 years, this was the home of the family of the lady editor of the *Dawson County Advertiser*, Mrs. Maude Thomas Howard, and remained the office for the son, Dr. Marcus "Buddy" Howard before being renovated and opened as a funeral home. It is known for its unusual triple fireplace used to heat the main rooms of the house and is reported to be the first home in town to have sheetrock walls. The house, located at the corner of Highway 9 South and East 3rd Street, has been restored and, in 2014, is the home of Scott and Angie Smith and their family.

Parks-Grogan-Tucker-Turner House
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

Chapter 9

Dawsonville as the only incorporated city was the site of the county courthouse, jail, library and newspaper, but all the communities had one or more stores, at least one post office, a school and one or more churches.

The Savannah District Community contained the rich agricultural lands along the Etowah River where the early settlers built their houses and barns, cultivated crops, established pasturelands, mined ore, searched for gold and put down roots.

Susan Russell House
Dawson County Historical Collection

The Susan Russell House was built around 1850. Susan and her family came back to Georgia after the death of her husband, William Greenberry Russell, and lived in this house. It has been said that the living room was once a dance hall because she and her daughters loved to dance.

Later occupants of this house included Gold-Mining Engineer Van Vlick, the Whelchel Family, and the Bob Stowers family. The house stood empty for several years until rescued and restored in 1986.

Home of Silas Palmour, later home of Robert Bowen McClure, the man in the picture. Helen Green Collection

The William Greenberry Russell House was owned by Green Russell from 1852 to1870. Green returned from his trip out west from the gold rush and purchased 540 acres which was called the Savannah Plantation on the Etowah River in what became Dawson County. While his family was living here, Green and his brothers (sometimes one, sometimes more) journeyed to what is now Colorado and became an important part of its history. A historic marker credits the Russells as founders of Denver. The Russell family moved out west, but after Green's death in 1877, his wife moved her family back to Georgia to live in the Savannah area of Dawson County. She did not live in this house, but lived in a larger house down the road.

In 1870 this house became the property of the Robert Bowen McClure family.

The Aaron Palmour House was a log cabin built about 1830, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in the county. It was later the home of Dr. Levi Russell and had many owners and occupants. This house was sold to

Rankin Smith's son-in-law, moved and put back together in the edge of Forsyth County, Georgia.

The John D. Palmour House was located in the Big Savannah community. Later residents of this house include the McKee Family and the Green Stowers Family

The Thomas Stowers House and Farm consisted of a number of buildings which have been carefully reconstructed and/or restored, including a house built in the 1890s by Charles, the youngest son of Thomas. There were other buildings including a blacksmith shop, a store, and farm buildings. A log house built first about 1840 was enlarged and reduced over the years and was occupied almost continuously until 1952. For 30 years this farmhouse was abandoned until Tom's great-grandson began a careful restoration.

The Lumpkin and Liberty Communities were south of the Etowah River nearer the Chestatee River. This community contained several schools, post offices, stores, churches and Lumpkin Methodist Campground.

The Hendrix House
Hoyt Scarborough Collection

The Hendrix House was built by Minor Hendrix sometime before 1900 as a two-room house with a central passage. It was later remodeled with the addition of the two story bay window on the left side of the façade. Across the road was the old Bright Store and Post Office. This house was later renovated and became a florist, nursery and gift shop before being demolished and replaced with other buildings on this acreage on the northwest corner of the intersection of Georgia Highway 400 and Highway 53.

The Taylor House was built in the late 1920s by Dillard and Pearl Elliot. Mr. Elliot bought this large farm along Thompson Creek from the Thompson and Estes families. After his death, much of the farmland was covered by Lake Lanier and the remainder was divided and sold.

The second owner remodeled with changes including lower ceilings, moving the kitchen and adding heart pine floors.

The Morris and Helen Taylor family purchased the property in 1972 as a weekend retreat and began remodeling in 1981, trying to keep the house true to its origin as an early 20th century farmhouse. The house is located on old

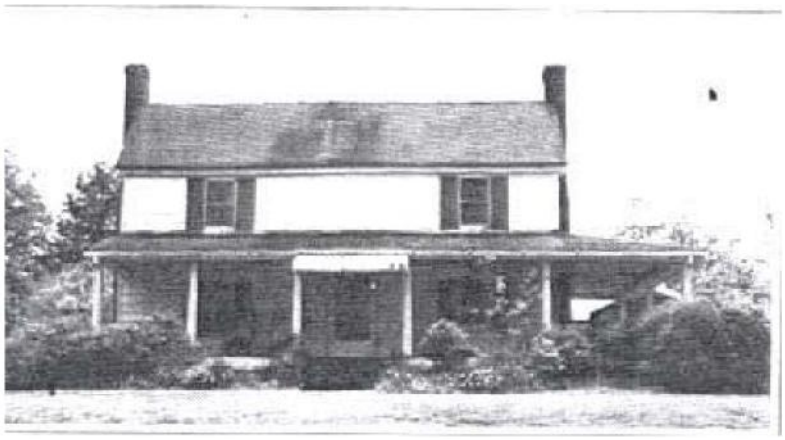
The Taylor House
Dawson County Historial Society
Second Annual Tour of Homes -1992

Highway 53 east of Georgia 400.

The Townley House is an excellent example of the double gable style bungalow. Double gable houses are found throughout Dawson County and several adjacent counties. This house was built in 1947. The basement of the house was dug using mule power and the lumber for the house was cut, sawed, and planed on the site. The house has been restored by the owners and is located on old Highway 53 east of Georgia 400.

The Townsend House was constructed circa 1832 and was an example of the Plantation Plain type house that was built throughout the Georgia Piedmont cotton belt. The house was built on the hall and parlor plan with two unequal sized rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. The kitchen is now a wing off the back but may have been a separate building earlier. The landscaping complemented the house with old garden plants such as mulberry, English dogwood, and fragrant double roses. This house burned in the 1990s.

The Townsend Grocery was located near the house on old Highway 53 east of Georgia 400.



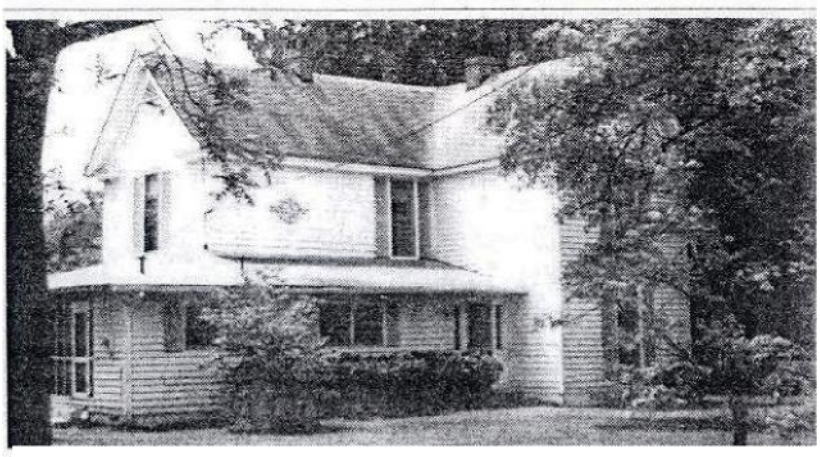
The Townsend House
Dawson County Historial Society
Second Annual Tour of Homes -1992

The Martin-Whitmire House was originally owned by Otis Martin who farmed and ran grist and syrup mills on this property. The syrup mill was located near the house. Across the road an old house site could be seen. A house and barn belonging to the Kennedy or Canady family once stood there. The owners moved from Dawson County to Idaho in the early 20th century. The Martins then used the house as a rental house. Gober Whitmire was a later owner of the entire Martin complex. The Martin-Whitmire house was adapted to office space by the NISCO Company and the historic integrity of the neighborhood was retained. This house is located on old Highway 53 east of Georgia 400.

The E. D. Cox Home, a Victorian house, was built by E. D. Cox in 1910. The restoration was begun by David Cox and was continued by Joseph and Terri Bishop. The earliest record of the land in Dawson County was a deed to James Neal in 1858. The Cox family farmed 250 acres in Dawson and Forsyth Counties. Corn was grown in the bottoms but this land has since been covered by Lake Lanier. This farm supported three tenant families in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Cox and their twelve children. The original smokehouse and well house are to the left and a garage built of old materials is to the right of the house.

The Clarence McClure Victorian Farmhouse was purchased by the McClure family from the Jay family around 1900. The house was the center of a 260 acre farm prior to the flooding of Lake Lanier. Cotton was grown on the upland acres while the bottoms produced corn, cane, wheat and oats. Cattle and hogs were raised for meat. Across the road stood a large 12-stall barn, grain storage house and smokehouse. Grains were threshed by a thresher and then carried to the Bolding Mill for grinding. This farm supplied a house, mules and equipment to three tenant families in exchange for one-third of the

cotton and one-fourth of the corn produced. During the winter, tenants would split boards and shingles and help cut cross ties and cordwood.



Julian House
Dawson County Historical Society
Second Annual Tour of Homes -1992

The Julian House was constructed circa 1867 to replace an earlier house that had burned. During the 1860s the property was a large farm owned by Abijah J. Julian. The property passed to the daughters Jamie J. Lilly and Ethel O. Brice. Jamie sold her share to Ethel who later willed the farm to her children. In 1957, Dr. Julian Thomas Brice, a chiropractor, sold his half interest to his sister Mrs. Lila Brice James. The James family remodeled the house in 1962.

The Julian family operated an academy from around 1870 until 1910. In 1921 the academy building was sold to become the Chestatee Masonic Lodge. The building originally stood on War Hill Road west of the Julian Farm Road. It has since been moved to the lake as a residence.

The Jeff Taylor House and Store were located off Highway 53 on a dirt road leading to the Chestatee Community in Forsyth County. The house was built between 1902 and 1904 and was occupied by the Taylor family until the 1970s. The house then was empty for many years before being torn down in 2012 to make room for a new house built by the great-great grandson of the original owner.

Jeff Taylor Store
Peggy Taylor Hulsey Collection

The T. F. Hughes Store was located on Highway 53 east of Georgia 400. This community store furnished all the supplies for the household and farm.

Byrd-Stephens Building Supply was located on Highway 53 east of Dawsonville near Georgia 400. This property and building were purchased by Dawsonville Gun and Pawn.

Barrettsville Community was located in Barrett's district in the southern part of Dawson County near the Etowah River. This community was a gold mining town in the early days and contained a post office, several stores, a saloon, and boarding houses.

T. F. Hughes Store
Joe Bailey Collection

The Hockenhull House was patterned after the old home place of John Hockenhull in England. This house was built about 1850 on the Etowah River in the Barrettsville Community using brick made on the farm. This farm of about 1200 acres of land had not only the house, but barns, a horse racing track, smaller houses for slaves and other living quarters for the people working on the plantation. This land became a part of the Dawson Forest where the Lockheed Nuclear Laboratory was located in the 1950s and 1960s.

Major John Hockenhull House
Shirley Trammell Wilson Collection

The Barrettsville Store was located in Barrettsville, one of the older communities of Dawson County. This store was owned and operated by Seymour McGehee.

Barrettsville Store
McGehee Family Collection

Stuman House was about two miles west of Dawsonville on the right side of Highway 53. This house was also used as a school in the early 1900s.

Kent's Service Station & Grocery was located on Highway 53 West just before the Pickens County line. There was a lake at this same location.

George Elliott Building Supply was located on Highway 183 North on the site that later became the **Elliott Racing Complex**.

The Harben House was located in the Juno Community and a part of the house later was used as the Juno Post Office. It is across the road from the Juno Baptist Church.

Harben's Grocery and Service Station was located in the Juno community near Juno Church. It was a country store with supplies that could not be grown on the farm.

Farther up the road were the **E.E. Styles Store** and the **Chastain Store.**

The **Doctor Holden House** is in the community of Emma and is still standing in 2014. Dr. Holden lived there many years ago. It is located at the corner of Afton Road and Highway 183.

Stuman House
Gladiola Hall Nickerson Collection

About two miles from Highway 183, **The Densmore House** at Afton, Georgia, was the home of the Asberry Densmore family and contained the Afton Post Office until it was moved into the General Store building. The old home place had not only the store and post office, but a blacksmith shop along with a lot of other farm buildings. In later years there was a garage that was operated for many years by the sons of Mr. Densmore. Not far from the farm was a corn mill that ran from time to time until the dam was washed away in a large flood.

The Jacob Orr House was located in the Emma Community on the west side of Highway 183. It was a large two-story house with a large porch.

Fausett's Restaurant, Motel and Lake were located off Highway 183 on Highway 136 in northern Dawson County. In *The Pickens County Progress* dated February 2009 a man tells of spending part of his summers at this place in one of the cabins and fishing in the lake with his dad.

Jacob Orr House
Geneva Burt Bearden Collection

The Harley Fausett House, built about 1920, was located at the intersection of Highway 183 and Highway 52. This house was relocated to Howser Mill Road when the family built a new home. The house was used as a home for the Save-A-Youth program.

The John Fausett House was at the corner of Fausett Lake Road and Highway 52 West. The community was called Johntown and contained a post office, a store and a school.

Falls View Cafe and Grocery was located at the intersection of Highway 183 and Highway 52 East as you entered Amicalola Falls. This café and grocery and several cabins were owned by the same family before the State of Georgia built the park.

The Alonzo Burt House was the old Jim Spriggs home place located on Alonzo Burt Road near Highway 136 north of Dawsonville. Mr. Alonzo Burt purchased the house in 1921 from his grandfather's estate and raised his family there. In later years he built a more modern brick house near Highway 136.

Fausett's Motel and Lake in past times
Pat Floyd Collection

Falls View Café and Grocery --
closed several years Pat
Floyd Collection

The Harbin House belonging to Balaam and Mahala M. Grogan Harbin was located north of Dawsonville on Highway 136. Their son Andrew lived there all his life, and now his son, Jimmie, makes it his home.

Holtzclaw – Bailey House
Ruby Bailey Beaubien Collection

The Holtzclaw House is located on Bailey-Waters Road off Highway 136 in northern Dawson County. The house previously owned by Roy Bailey is now owned by his daughter. The house was made of logs but the date of construction is not known.

Waters Store was owned and operated by Flora Long Waters and opened in the mid- to late-1940s. This store was located on New Hope Road in the New Hope Community and the building is no longer there.

Clara Harben's Store and Station was built in the late 1950s by Charles "Chuck" Reece. This store was bought later by Clara Harben and operated by her until her death in 1986. The building is still standing in 2014 on Highway 136 north of Dawsonville.

Boyd Vaughters House and Store
Pat Floyd Collection

The Boyd Vaughters House was built by Charlie Reece. A small building on this property contained a store operated by Mr. Reece for a time. Later, Mr. Carson Bruce ran a store here for a time before it closed. The house later became the home of the Boyd Vaughters family. Both buildings are still standing in 2014 and are located on Highway 136 north of Dawsonville.

Bob Swafford House
Pat Floyd Collection

The Bob Swafford House on Highway 136 north of Dawsonville is owned by the descendants of Robert and Clara Swafford. In 1921 this house became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Swafford and their family. After her parents' deaths, Miss Annie Swafford lived there until her death in 2001. The house is still standing in 2014.

The Vandiviere house was built about 1930 and was the home of Cicero and Myrtie Vandiviere and their two sons, Johnny and Billy. Although empty since the death of Mrs. Vandiviere in 1991, the house is still standing in 2014 on Shoal Creek Road, north of Dawsonville.

The Vandiviere House
Faye Bearden Bruce Collection

NEWSPAPERS

The Dawson County Advertiser was established in 1887 by Rev. Henry Campbell who ran it for more than a year. He turned over the print shop to Henry O'Shields who was in charge for about two years, then traded the newspaper to Walter Richardson of Dawsonville. Mr. Richardson in a few months traded the printing plant to John B. Thomas for a gold watch.

On March 1, 1890, Mr. Thomas began the publication of *The Dawson County Advertiser*. During 1904 when the Howser Hotel was destroyed, the newspaper plant was burned. In 1909, the lever brace of the press that was burned in the fire was found under brush at the site of the fire. This Washington hand press upon which the first newspaper in Georgia was published had been brought to Augusta in 1775 and had a storied past. It was used to publish *The Constitutionalist*. In 1836 it was moved to Nucklesville and later sold and moved to Ball Ground, Georgia. There it was used to publish a political sheet. The last sale of this press was to John B. Thomas in Dawsonville, the editor of *The Advertiser*. With the loss of the press, Mr. Thomas lost no time in securing another plant. He purchased the printing plant of *The Norcross Tribune*, at Norcross, Georgia.

This time the shop was located in his home until he purchased a small building for the plant. He continued at the location until his death January 7, 1911. At that time his daughter, Mrs. B. H. Howard, became the publisher and improved the newspaper until an eight-page paper was produced.

A fire of uncertain origin destroyed the store of Egbert McClure, his warehouse, the post office and the plant of *The Dawsonville Advertiser* on the morning of March 23, 1921.

Since the plant was destroyed again by fire, the paper was printed by *The Gainesville News*. Soon the plant of *Dahlonega Echo* was purchased and moved to Dawsonville.

Early in 1921, Mrs. B. H. Howard was the editor of the paper, but by June of that year she was editor with L.J. and Bryan Redd as associate editors.

In 1920, Dr. I. O. Siler came to Dawsonville as the superintendent of the Dawsonville School. He decided to publish a newspaper. Dr. Siler named his paper *The Cosmopolite***.** He ran the paper for a few years and then leased it to Mrs. Howard, who later purchased the paper from Dr. Siler.

Office of the *Dawson County Advertiser*
Mary Slaton Hulsey Collection

Mrs. Howard set type by hand for the newspaper
Journal -1946- Collection

According to *The Dawson County Advertiser*, dated October 8, 1937, its 50th birthday, the editor had been in harness for most of 26 years. The editor at that time was Mrs. Maude Howard who learned the newspaper business as a young girl from working with her father, John B. Thomas.

In 1956 James and Mary Waldrip started a new paper in Dawsonville named the ***Dawson County News*.** James Waldrip, who owned Georgia Printing Company of Gainesville, heard that the *Advertiser's* owner, Mrs. Maude Howard, wanted to sell the paper. Waldrip said they reached an agreement, but to his surprise, she backed out of the deal. With the help of high school students selling subscriptions, a new paper was born.

After Maude Howard passed away, her son sold *The Advertiser* to James and Mary Waldrip in 1962. They merged the two papers together, with the new name ***Dawson County Advertiser and Dawson County News.*** Mr. Waldrip was the publisher and Mrs. Waldrip was the editor.

After *The Dawson County Advertiser* and *Dawson County News* merged, the old press that was used by Mrs. Howard was donated to the Georgia Press Association. It spent some time in Underground Atlanta before being put back into use via demonstrations by the Agrirama Museum in Tifton, Georgia.

Don Waldrip, their son, purchased the newspaper, and Mrs. Waldrip continued as the editor until she became ill in 1979. The editors changed over the years, until Chyrl Waldrip, Don's wife, became the editor.

In January 1999 Don and Chyrl sold the paper to Athens based Community Newspapers, Inc. which owned several other newspapers in Northeast Georgia. The paper is still being published as *Dawson News & Advertiser* each week, with an office in downtown Dawsonville. It is the official organ of Dawson County with Kimberly Boim as publisher and editor.

Dawson Community News is another paper printed in Dawson County at this time. This is a Swartz-Morris Media Inc. publication with Editor Stephanie Griffin.

H. J. O'Shields was the editor of ***The Mountain Chronicl*e** which was the first Dawson County newspaper about 1879. In an old house on the farm purchased by H. E. Parks several files of the first newspaper were found by Mrs. H. E. Parks.

The papers were turned over to *The Dawson County Advertiser*, and their hope was to reproduce items from the papers.

The Mountain Chronicle is on microfilm at the Dawson County Library, with the following dates:

September 9, 1879, to May 12, 1882; June 9, 1882, to June 23, 1882. There are many missing issues of this paper.

Dawsonville News with the following dates: June 25, 1884, to April 22, 1887, is another microfilm at the Dawson County Library. There are many missing issues of this paper.

LIBRARIES

The Dawson County Advertiser on December 6, 1941, under Library Notes had the following information:

J. M. Turner has succeeded Howard V Stephens as traveling librarian for Dawson County. His routes for the next two weeks are as follows: Dec. 1, Juno and community; Dec 2, Lumpkin; 3, Harmony; 4, Oak Grove; 5, Liberty; 6. Silver City and Barrettsville; 9, Emma, Johntown, and White Oak; 10, New Hope; 11, Sweetwater, Etowah, and Cross Roads; 12, Round Hill, Landrum, and Savannah.

We must have all books that were loaned before November 1 back in the library at once.

Please co-operate by sending them by the school buses or giving them to the traveling librarian, within this two weeks schedule.

We are anxious to give you good service and will appreciate any suggestions you have to offer.

This was signed: Ida M. Law, Librarian.

The State Department of Education in 1944 made funds available for development of a public library service in Georgia. Dawson County in 1958 was one of the two remaining counties in the state without any kind of public library.

In 1958 the Director of the Gwinnett-Forsyth Regional Library met with the Dawson County Board of Education in the interest of rural library service. The board members were receptive to the idea and hoped that the commissioner might help with the expense of the program. The Board of Education voted in April 1958 to join the Gwinnett-Forsyth Regional Library.

Service was extended to Dawson County via bookmobile in the summer of 1958, and by February 1959 quarters were found for a branch library in Dawsonville. On April 17, 1959, the formal opening of the library was held with Mrs. Mary Waldrip as the librarian. The library was located in the office of the local newspaper.

When Dawson County joined the regional library, Lanier Lake Regional Library was selected as the title of the three-county library.

The newspaper office and the library were housed in a small building on the corner of the property occupied by the Slaton house. In the fall of 1963 Edwin Looper bought the building and land for a supermarket.

In March of 1964, the newspaper and library moved into a rental space that is now a part of the Dawsonville Pool Room. The newspaper and library continued to grow and soon outgrew this space.

Mrs. Waldrip had been the librarian for eleven years and retired in February of 1970. At that time the library moved down the street to the Masonic Building with Fannie Reagan as the new librarian. It reopened for service April 16, 1970, for a total of twelve hours a week.

The library board began discussing the need for a new library, and a few months later Commissioner Harben was notified that Dawson County had received a Bicentennial grant for a library building.

Mamie Tucker and Harold Hendricks donated the land for the new library and the library was moved into a new building in May of 1977.

A fire broke out in the storage area of the library in February of 1982, and there was a lot of smoke and water damage. The library was repaired and reopened in November of 1982.

On June 30, 1994, Dawson County Library separated from the Lake Lanier Regional Library and

joined Chestatee Regional Library on July 1, 1994. Then at a December 1995 meeting of the Hall County Library Board they voted that Hall County would separate from the Chestatee Regional Library as of June 30, 1997, leaving Lumpkin and Dawson Counties as the Chestatee Regional Library System.

Dawson County Library on donated land. The building houses another business as of 2014
Pat Floyd Collection

With the growth of the library, in June of 1999 Dawson County voters approved a SPLOST, setting aside money to build a new library. The current library opened in September of 2001 at the new location. As the county has grown, the library system has opened a satellite library west of Dawsonville on Highway 53 in the Emergency Service Building just past Tractor Supply Company. This satellite is open two days a week. They have a small browsing library and are designed for pick-up and drop-off of materials during open hours.

Dawson County Library
Pat Floyd Collection

Chapter 10

Dawson County's men and women have been loyal and faithful in their participation in the conflicts of our nation.

Before Dawson County was formed Edmond Singleton, Richard D. Bearden and Reubin F. Hill served in the **American Revolutionary War** and have marked graves in Dawson County.

Jacob Bearden, Solomon Clark, Abraham Cochran and John Wesley Hamby, Jr. served in the **War of 1812.** Mr. Hamby is buried in Dawson County in an unmarked grave. The other three men have marked graves in the county.

A War Memorial which honors the Dawson Countians who served in the military from the Civil War through Vietnam is located within Veterans Memorial Park on Highway 9 about two miles north of Dawsonville. The Memorial, constructed of marble panels with laid-rock trim, contains the engraved names of 729 service men and women (388 from the Civil War). These names were gained from newspaper solicitations, the genealogical society and interested citizens.

The park staff maintains the memorial area and lowers the flag to half-mast to honor one of the living veterans when he dies.

Kimberly Boim Collection

The War Memorial lists the following names for the **Civil War** and only the first initial of the person is listed:

B. Anderson, W. Anderson I. Bailey, J. Barnes, J. Barron, J. Bearden R. Bearden, W. Beck, R. Bennett, M. Berry, C. Bird, J. Blackburn, S. Boone, J. Brice, F. Bruce, W. Burgess, J. Burt, S. Burt, J. Byrd, J. Cantrell, J. Carlisle, J. Castleberry, B. Chastain, A. Chumbley, M. Clark, A. Cochran, D. Collier,

J. Corn, P. Covington, M. Cox, B. Crane, N. Danger, A Davis, J. Densmore, E. Dilbeck, E. Dishroon, F. Duncan, I. Elliott, J. Elrod, J. Ferriba, H. Foster, D. Fowler, A. Gaddis, L. Garmon.

J. Anderson, W. Andrews, L. Bailey, R. Barrett, S. Bates, A. Bearden, W. Bearden, W. Bell, W. Bennett, W. Beshers, W. Bird, A. Blassengame, W. Boyd, T. Brice, J. Bryson, A. Burk, M. Burt, W. Burt, W. Byrd, W. Cantrell, A. Carney, J. Chambers, D. Chastain, T. Chumbley, W. Clarke, F. Cochran, B. Callman, J. Covington, E. Cowart, W. Cox. L. Cronon, O. Darnell, J. Deal, S. Densmore, J. Dilbeck, E. Dobson, B. Edge, R. Elliott, T. Eubanks, S. Ferriba, G. Fouts, N. Fowler, D. Garmon, W. Garmon.

R. Anderson, G. Bailey, J. Banister, C. Barron, J. Bean, N. Bearden, A. Beck, J. Bennett, J. Bentley, J. Bettis, J. Bishop, J. Boone, J. Brady, J. Brown, W. Burdine, D. Burt, R. Burt, J. Byers, R. Cain, J. Carder, W. Carney, P. Chambers, W. Chester, G. Clark, J. Cobb, J. Cochran, B. Corn, L. Covington, E. Cox, Z. Cox, J. Croy, J. Daulton, D. Densmore, M. Dickson, L. Bill, J. Dodd, W. Elkins, W. Elliott, J. Fausett, W. Fife, J. Fouts, J. Gable, J. Garmon, B. Garrett.

W. Gee, C. Goss, J. Goswick, J. Green, W. Gregory, J. Grogan, G. Hall, E. Hamby, J. Harben, L. Haygood, S. Hendricks, A. Henry, W. Hicks, C. Holcombe, B. Holtzclaw, B. Hoppers, J. Howell, R. Howser, W. Hubbard, L. Hughes, D. Hyde, W. Hyde, W. Jenkins, J. Kelley, W. Kelley, F. Kirby. S. Kitchens, J. Ledbetter, J. Lindsey, A. Logan, W. Looper, P. Magness, G. Martin, I. McClurd, J. McDugle, R. Mealor, H. Mincey, S. Monroe, J. Moss, J. Newton, J. Nix, W. Odum, A. Padgett, F. Page.

M. Gentry, F. Goss, J. Graham, L. Green, J. Griggs, P. Grogan, J. Hall, J. Hamby, N. Harben, J. Head, J. Hendrix, D. Henry, J. Higgins, J. Holden, E. Holtzclaw, J. Howard, R. Howell, T. Howser, G. Hudlow, W. Hughes, J. Hyde, W. Ingram, H. Jones, P. Kelley, M. Kerns, D. Kitchens, J. Langford, O. Ledbetter, L. Little, D. Logan, S. Lovelady, M. Magness, J. Martin, J. McClure, I. McGehee, R. Medlin, J. Mincey, V. Monroe, G. Motes, W. Nichols, J. Norris, W. Orr, H. Padgett, A. Palmour.

W. Godfrey, J. Goss, E. Green, W. Green, A. Grogan, R. Grogan, W. Grogan, M. Hall, B. Harben, S. Harben, J. Heard, P. Hendrix, J. Herrin, D. Hix, J. Hockenhull II, W. Honea, V. Howard, H. Howser, S. Hubbard, W. Hudlow, G. Hulsey, O. Hyde, R. Jackson, L. Keeling, E. Kirby, E. Kitchens, C. Lawless, M. Lee, S. Little, W. Loggins, M. Lowman, E. Martin, J. Mathews, R. McClure, F. McGinnis, W. Miller, J. Mincey, F. Moore, W. Neighbors, I. Ninecy, J. Odum, W. Owens, J. Padgett, B. Palmour.

J. Palmour, S. Pate, S. Payne, G. Perry, R. Pettett, R. Pierce, G. Prince, W. Reece, H. Richardson, C. Richfield, A. Robinson, A. Roper, S. Roper, J. Ruddell, D. Seay, E. Shelton, S. Shoemaker, A. Slaton, E. Smith, J. Smith, W. Smith, W. Starnes, R. Stephens, J. Stowers, A. Sutton, J. Swafford, J. Tatum, F. Taylor, W. Taylor, J. Thomas, J. Thurmond, B. Turner, N. Turner, G. Vandivere, C. Wafford, R. Waters, D. Wehunt, J. West, E. Whittemore, P. Willis, R. Woodall, C. Young.

R. Palmour, H. Patten, Z. Payne, D. Pettett, J. Phillips, J. Pirkle, J. Randle, G. Reeves, J. Richardson, T. Rivers, G. Robinson, D. Roper, J. Rouse, J. Russell, E. Seay, J. Shelton, W. Shoemaker, J. Slaton, F. Smith, M. Smith, J. Spriggs, G. Steele, M. Stone, T. Stowers, J. Sutton, D. Tanner, M. Tatum, J. Taylor, J. Tesseneer, A. Thompson, W. Tiner, J. Turner, R. Turner, G. Vaughters, J. Wallis, H. Weaver, J. Wehunt, S. Westrey, J. Williams, M. Wood, J. Wright.

A. Parks, J. Payne, E. Perry, J. Pettett, L. Pierce, G. Porter, A. Reece, W. Reynolds, W. Richardson, I. Robinson, T. Roland, G. Roper, D. Ruddell, R. Sanford, A. Sewell, J. Shoemaker, J. Simmerman, W. Sluder, G. Smith, O. Smith, A. Spriggs, L. Stephens, C. Stover, W. Summerour, W. Sutton, H. Tatum, R. Tatum, S. Taylor, A. Thomas, W. Thompson, S. Townsend, J. Satterfield, W. Turner, W. Vaughters, M. Waters, P. Weaver, T. Wehunt, W. Whitmore, F. Willis, J. Woodall, D. Yarborough.

The War Memorial lists the following names for **World War I:**

Lee Anderson, Enoch Barrett, Grover Burt, Albert Clack, Claud Clark, Ernest Dale, Loland Darnell, Alvin Elliott, Ervin Elliott, Albert Etris, Pink Fowler, Orion Hill, Will Martin, Tom Moss, Arnold Orr, Gordon Perry, Charlie Reece, Robert Reed, Claude Roper, William Roper, Lester Seay, J. C. Slaton, George Stiles, Homer Stowers, Carl Swafford, Grady Tatum, Grover Taylor, Charlie Thompson, Gordie Turner, Gus Vandiviere, Harvey Wallace, Emmett Warren, Clarence West, Homer Wilson, Willie Witherow, Armouse Anderson, Ford Gober, A. J. Gilreath, Enark Perkins, Hal Covington, Walter Milsap, Richard Wallis, Walter Holtzclaw, and Charley Chumley.

The following names are listed on the War Memorial for **World War II:**

J. B. Anderson, Eugene Arnold, Walter Ayers, D. G. Barnes, Don Barnes, Franklin Bennett, Lamar Bigham, Arch Bishop, Marvin Brown, Alton Bruce, Leon Bruce, Walter Bruce, Howard Burt, C.B. Byrd, Lawrence Clark, L.C. Carter, Carl Chester, Dean Couch, Ralph Cox, Walter Cox, Herbert Crawford, Ralph Dale, Clyde Disharoon, Harold Draper, Boyd Duncan, Frank Duncan, Charles Ellenburg, Joe Elrod, Grover Fausett, Leon Fausett, Taft Fouts, Charles Gentry, Eugene Gilleland, Pete Gilleland, Hoyt Goswick, Hugh Grant, George Green, Summer Greenway, Roy Helton, Lloyd Hill, Walter Holtzclaw, Arnold Hubbard, Lamar Hughes, Daniel Hulsey, John Hulsey, Guss Hyde, Edgar Jett, James Kent, Porter Anderson, Thomas Ayers, Beland Bailey, David Barnes, Bill Bearden, Hoyt Bennett, Stella Bigham, Paul Bostwick, Artis Bruce, J. C. Bruce, Ralph Bruce, Clyde Burt, Ralph Burt, George Byrd, Sam Carmey, Loyd Carter, Lonnie Chumbley, Glenn Couch, Rawleigh Cox, Wade Crane, Grady Dale, Howard Darnell, Delbert Doyle, Ben Duncan, Eugene Duncan, James Duncan, George Elliott, Jim Evans, Jerry Fausett, R. J. Fausett, John Garner, Luther Gentry, Harold Gilleland, James Goodson, Homer Graham, Thurman Grant, Reid Greenway, Ford Hammond, Herbert Hill, Vernon Hill, Marcus Howard, Marvin Hufstetler, Loy Hughes, Hub Hulsey, Dean Hulsey, Van Ingram, James Jolly, Everett Land, Lanier Long, Jay Lowman, Mark McClure, Hughes Miller, Gordon Moss, Hoyt Nix, Lamar Owen, Henry Palmour, Leonard Patterson, Claude Powell, George Pugh, Toy Pugh, Edward Reagan, Thomas Reece, J. A. Reed, Horace Reeves, Billy Robertson, Herbert Robinson, Plennie Robinson, Dan Roper, Clifton Sheriff, Orin Sheriff, Claude Simonds, J. W. Slaton, Weldon Slaton, Red Stegall, Edward Stowers, Ralph Styles, Clain Swafford, Rufus Talley, George Tatum, Paul Tatum, James Taylor, B. R. Taylor, Jr. Kit Thurmond , Clay Townley, Joe Townsend, Craig Turner, J. W. Vandiver, Lloyd Vaughters, James Voyles, Clayton Wallace, Sherman Wallace, James Water, Dawson Whitmire, Henry Wilson, J. C. Wilson, Kenneth Wilson, Robert Long, Joseph Martin, Ruben McKinney, Theodore Monkus, Robert Nissen, Benjamin Overstreet, Sybil Owen, Herbert Parks, A. C. Phillips, Charlie Pugh, James Pugh, Paul Purdy, Fred Reagan, Grady Reed, Eugene Reeves, Paul Rider, Wilburn Robertson, Hoyt Robertson, Wilbert Robinson, Howard Roper, Efron Sheriff, Andrew Simonds, George Slaton, Joseph Slaton, John Stegall, Homer Stephens, E. E. Styles, Carl Swafford, Glenson Swafford, Benjamin Tatum, Jim Tatum, Wesley Tatum, Morris Taylor, Buster Thurmond, Hubert Tinsley, Jack Townley, Clinton Turner, Joseph Turner, Charlie Vaughter, Everett Voyles, James Walker, Marcus Wallace, Glyndon Walls, Ernest Wehunt, Eugene Whitmire, Homer Wilson, James Wilson, Odell Wilson, Rufus Wilson, Curtis Ayers, Samuel Burt, Ford Holcomb, Donald Holcomb, Edmond Wallace, Loy Chumley, Tames Talton, Curtis Chappell, Robert Garmon, Brown Lowman, James Gober, Ralph Fowler, Raymond Perkins, Lester Duncan, Edwin Perkins, Frank Perkins, Homer Elliott, Cecil Lingerfelt, Dewey Waters, Hoyt Looper, J. C. Owen, James R. Lowe, Linsey Lowe, Jr., J. C. Woody, Artis Wehunt, Grade Wehunt, Willie Holcomb, Cale Holcomb, Arthur Gilreath, Fred Ryder, Herbert Chumbley, Ralph Medlock, James Reece, Rufus Summerour, Dean But, Clyde Pirkle, Howard Pruitt, Aston Green, Eugene Anderson, Sandra Lowe, Hermon Hathcock, Clean Hamby, Kermit Fowler, Alton Waters, Leroy Kendall, S. N. Lowe, and L.C. Lowe.

The War Memorial lists the following names for **The Korean War:**

Sam Bailey, Billy Bearden, Marcus Byrd, Grover Chumbley, Leland Garrett, W. J. Hall, Winford Kelley, Thomas Owen, Paul Payne, Edwin Reece, Troy Simmons, Jimmy Stowers, Nathan Styles, Kenneth Turner, James Anderson, Ivan J. Anderson, Bill Chester, L. J. Waters, Ed Byrd, Billy Singleton, Marvin Byrd, Myron Bruce, Eugene Gravett, Wayne Garrett, Lewis Bearden, J. C. Burt, Albert Carter, Vernie Cochran, Wendell Denard, Herb Glassman, R. C. Helton, Jere Hulsey, Donald Kenimer, Herbert Parks, Eugene Porter, Randall Reagan, Eugene Reece, Joel Stephens, William Styles, William Taylor, Ray Watson, James Carter, William Hamby, Emory Ayers, John Ayers, Edwin Looper, Lyndon West, George David, Frank Bruce. Jimmy Gravitt and Lumas Davis

The following names are listed on the War Memorial for the **Vietnam War:**

Lee Ayers, Ricky Bailey, Larry Bearden, Horace Beck, Doug Bruce, Jimmy Bryson, Alton Chastain, Edwin Dill, Wesley Estes, Lake Gibson, Jimmy Grindle, Harold Hansard, Gary Harben, Ted Huffstetler, Mack Ingram, Henry Johnson, Robert Lowman, Johnny Moon, Leonard Moore, Richard Pittman, Charles Spain, James Styles, Frank Talley, Dean Thompson, Larry Turner, Daryl Robinson, Buster Samples, J. C. Warren, Bobby Hathcock, Lane Hathcock, Richard Medlock, David M. Stowers, Marcus Bailey, Randy Banta, Donald Bishop, David Bruce, Kenneth Carney, L. C. Couch, David Disharoon, Marvin Faucett, Ronnie Graham, James Hammond, Danny Harben, Russell Huffstetler, David Ingram, Kenneth Jett, Luke Martin, Harvey Moon, Harold Perkins, Mac Slaton, Benny Stowers, James Swafford, Jimmy Tatum, Jerry Thurmond, Carroll Walls, David Vaughters, Doug Petty, Eugene Perkins, Rodney Perkins, Frank Powell, Roy Bruce.

The Wall at Veterans Memorial Park honors all veterans who have served our country. Dawson Countians are proud of the service given by her veterans and cherish the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. To honor their memory, U. S. flags line the streets of Dawsonville with individual names of deceased veterans annually for a few days at Memorial Day, July 4th, and Veterans Day. There is also a Memorial Day Program each year at Veterans Memorial Park as well as a Parade each year on Veterans Day.

While the men and women in active service were away serving their country, the citizens at home helped in many ways especially during World War II. Victory gardens, rationing of sugar, gas and other scarce items, gathering of rubber items and metal items for the manufacture of needed equipment for the armed forces, and purchasing of U.S. War Bonds and Stamps became ways for everyone to help. Women joined the work force in factories to fill the vacancies left by the men who had answered the call to active duty.

Chapter 11

Times were hard during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Those who farmed for a living were least affected but even cash crops brought little income. Several government programs provided employment. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided jobs to build roads, construct bridges and build public buildings, including the Dawson County High School built during this time. Work for youth was available through the National Youth Administration (NYA) much of which was construction-related. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided maintenance of public lands, built roads into some of these areas and worked to preserve forests and other natural resources.

Civilian Conservation Corps- Roy Swafford
Lanier Swafford Collection

As the Dawson County men and women came home from service after World War II, they found a few changes in the county, but most things were the same. The following is a brief history of some of the industry that shaped Dawson County and ultimately the nation.

AUTOMOBILES

Brothers Frank and Charles Duryea are credited with the creation of the first horse-less carriage in 1893. It had a single cylinder, 2-cycle engine that had to be hand-cranked to be started, to propel it.

On June 4, 1896, in a tiny workshop behind his home on 58 Bagley Avenue, Henry Ford put the finishing touches on his gasoline-powered motor car. After more than two years of experimentation, Henry Ford at the age of 32, had completed his first experimental automobile. He dubbed his creation the "Quadricycle," so named because it ran on four bicycle tires. The success of the little vehicle fueled Ford's automobile ambitions, leading ultimately to the founding of Ford Motor Company in 1903.

In Dawsonville, Dr. Homer Palmour, a dentist, owned a 1909 Reo Runabout according to the information on page 50 of the *Dawson County Heritage Book 1859-1996.*

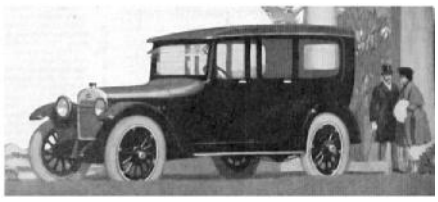
Rebekah Wilson, in her research, listed that 40 people owned Ford automobiles in 1917. The list contained others who owned Saxon, Oakland, Studebaker, Chevrolet, Max., Dort., & Sasser Hupp automobiles.

The **Saxon Car** was produced by the Saxon Motor Car Company from 1913 to 1923. The company was based in Detroit and Ypsilanti, Michigan. At first the company offered a small two seat roadster with either a 2- or 3-speed rear axle gearbox with the price of $395.00. It had headlights, as an extra option. Headlights became standard in 1915.

By 1915, Saxon Six was a five passenger tour car which sold for $785.00. The last Saxon model known as the Saxon Duplex was sold from 1921 until 1923 when the last one was sold.

Saxon Car
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Oakland Car** was manufactured from 1907 to 1909 by the Oakland Motor Car Company of Pontiac, Michigan. The Oakland Motor Company was formerly a carriage maker. Oakland's principal founder was Edward M. Murphy. Half of the company was sold to General Motors in January 1909. Mr. Murphy died in the summer of 1909, and GM acquired the remaining rights to Oakland.



Oakland Car
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dort demonstrates its durability in the 1920s era
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Dort Car** was an automobile built by the Dort Motor Car Company of Flint, Michigan from 1915–1924. Dort used the Lycoming Company, which built aircraft engines, to power their vehicles. Dort continued manufacturing cars until 1924, when the mounting price of development and distribution of the vehicles made it impossible to compete in the automotive markets of the 1920s. Josiah Dallas Dort's death in 1923 sealed the fate of Dort Motors.

BUS LINES

Roads into the mountains were almost nonexistent and those that did exist were dry and dusty in the summer, wet and muddy in the winter. Even where roads existed, many people did not have driveways to their houses.

Roy Otwell, a Ford dealer in Cumming, established a bus line in 1920 that traveled between Cumming and Atlanta via Highway 19. On May 1, 1924, Mr. Otwell sold the business to Cliff P. Vaughan and Claude Groover.

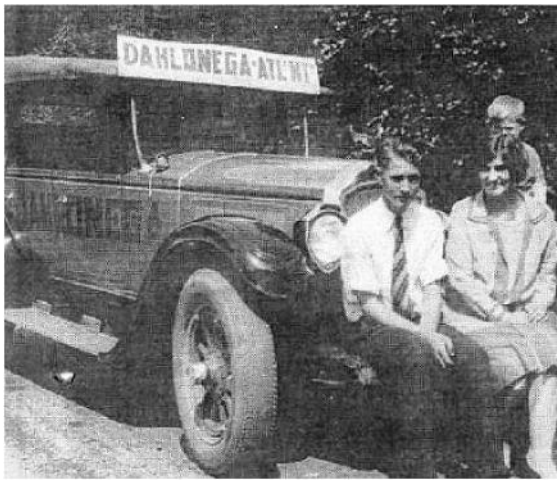
June 19, 1924, the *Forsyth County News* announced that two Ford dealers, Roy Otwell of Cumming, and Fred Jones, a dealer from Dahlonega, were to soon operate a bus line between Dahlonega and Cumming, traveling Highway 19.

The first buses were two Packard cars. Mr. Jones met and greeted passengers on each arrival in Dahlonega. This was a great addition to the bus line, as during World War II almost every soldier from Dawson, Lumpkin and Forsyth counties who entered the military service rode the bus that traveled from Dahlonega to Atlanta.

As the soldiers returned from the war, they traveled home by bus to be greeted by neighbors, friends, and family. The returning veterans tell of getting off the bus in Dawsonville, Coal Mountain, Cumming and Dahlonega on their way home.

During the war, gas was rationed and travel between Atlanta and Dahlonega was best on the bus as many of the people worked in Atlanta. They would return to the mountains and home on the weekend.

The bus line carried women and men who were not eligible for military service to work at the Bell Bomber Plant in Marietta. Later the Bell Bomber Plant became the Lockheed Plant in Marietta.



Packard Car used for bus line
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

The Dahlonega Nugget credited Fred Jones, Sr. with having developed one of the best transportation systems in Georgia with a loyal and well-selected staff.

Fred Jones, Jr. upon the death of his father was discharged from the Navy and returned home to manage the bus line and other family businesses along with his sisters. In 1962 the bus line, Dahlonega-Atlanta, was sold to Greyhound.

Today the bus is a pleasant memory of the simpler time when people came home to visit.

MOONSHINE AND RACING

Dawson County became known as the "Moonshine Capital of Georgia" for better or for worse. Moonshining is a distinct part of Dawson County's history and heritage. It was a way of making a living to feed their family. Many were of Scotch-Irish descent and the recipes for making moonshine had been handed down over the years by family members.

During the Prohibition Era of 1919-1933, moonshine was made and sold on the black market to buyers in Atlanta. "Trippers" hauled the moonshine in their everyday cars down Highway 9 to their customers in Atlanta

Despite the precautions moonshiners took to evade law authorities, it was not long before revenue agents found out where the "Tripper" was picking up his load.

The by-product of the industry was racing. Many of the "Tripper's" gained experience racing the revenue agents and it became necessary to create cars that were fast to out-run the "Revenuers". Utilizing those skills, they were transferred into what today has become a favorite sport, Nascar Auto Racing.

The racing side of moonshining, or stockcar racing, evolved from local wagering on whose tripper and liquor cars were the fastest.

On November 22, 1939, the first stock car race was held at Lakewood Speedway in Atlanta. There were two trippers, Lloyd Seay and Roy Hall from Dawsonville in that race, driving for Raymond Parks. This was about the same time that Gober Sosebee launched his racing career. 1940 and 1941 were good years for the "Dawsonville Gang," as they won races at the tracks they entered.

In 1941, the Dawsonville Gang received another driver by the name of Bernard Long who took the checkered flag at the Daytona Beach road race. This was his second race since he ran at Lakewood in 1939.

The 1942 racing season never got off the ground. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and war was declared on December 7, 1941.

After the war, racing was larger than ever with all the Dawsonville Gang entering and winning races.

Making of Moonshine
Lisa Lee Collection

The Elliott Family entered the sport of racing in the 1970s with Bill as the driver and working on chassis set-up; brother Ernie as the engine builder; and brother Dan building the transmissions and working with the pit crew. In 1976, the brothers decided to go racing full time. They worked on a shoestring budget with moderate success until Harry Melling, a Michigan Industrialist, became impressed by the driving skill of Bill, and the perseverance of the team. Mr. Melling became a part of the team and with his name and capitol helped the Elliott family achieve more wins. In 1984, the Melling Race Team acquired the sponsorship of Coors. In 1985, Bill won the three races that earned him the "Winston Million". Bill picked up more wins and set more records. Bill's fastest record at Talladega Race Track is still unbroken. Bill was voted "Most Popular Driver" of the year, an honor which he retained for 16 years. He relinquished the title when he asked his fans not to nominate him anymore. The Elliott Family lived the dream through perseverance and hard work.

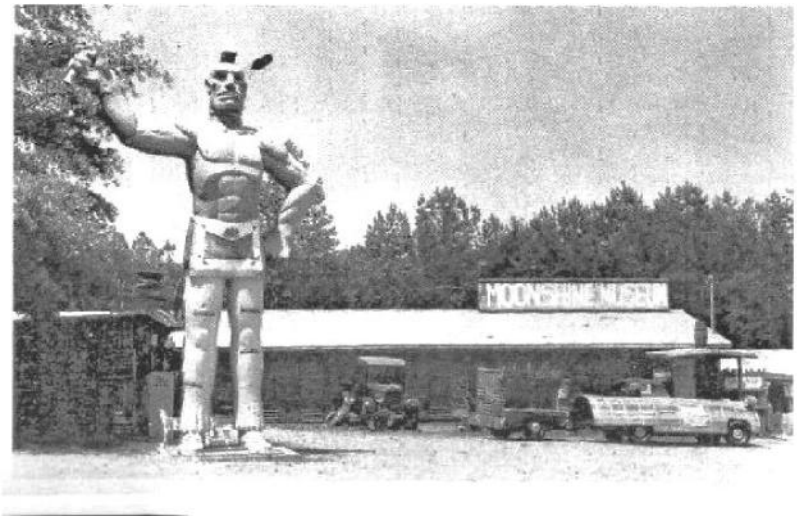
Roy Hall at Daytona Beach driving for Raymond Parks
Dawson County Historical Society Collection

Now we can watch Bill's son, Chase, as he becomes another racing legend in the making.

MOONSHINE MUSEUM

The first Moonshine Museum, owned by Fred Goswick, had its grand opening in 1968 in downtown Dawsonville on Highway 53 West.

There was a 23-foot Indian out front for everyone to see. The Braves Baseball Team no longer needed "Chief Nockahoma" as their mascot, so he was sold to Mr. Goswick for the sum of $1,000.00. After the purchase, the Indian stood in front of the museum the remaining years it was in operation.



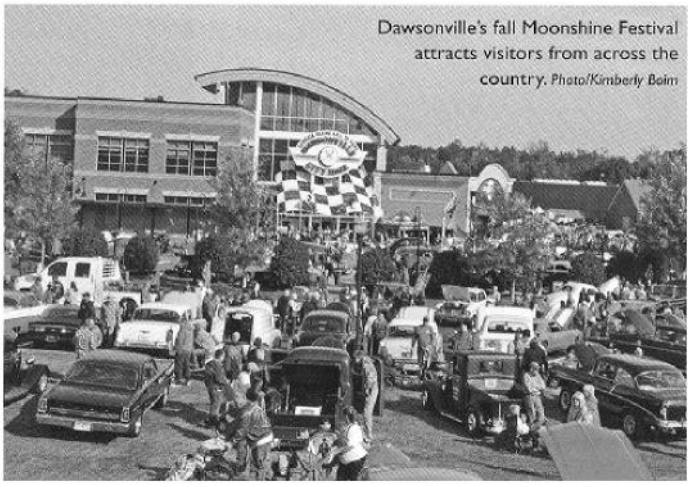
"Chief Knock A Homa" as he stood at museum
Goswick Family Collection

The museum was in an old 90-foot-long building that had served as a chicken house at one time. The walls of the museum had woodland scenes painted on them to depict that the still was in a natural setting. The museum had several stills, all original, but the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Department Regulations would not permit a citizen to own a still that was in working order. All of the stills had to have holes cut in them, and were inspected by the ATF periodically. The museum had a copper still and boiler, a ground hog, a pan type still and everything needed to make moonshine, such as sugar (empty sacks), malt or corn, barrels for the mash, and jugs or mason jars.

Over the years, business became slow and the museum closed its doors in the 1970s.

MOONSHINE FESTIVAL

The Moonshine Festival in Dawsonville was started in the early 1960s by the same person that had the museum. Fred Goswick set up a small table with woodwork art, fresh vegetables and a small moonshine still in front of the courthouse on the town square. The festival has grown over the years with more than 100 vendors and thousands of visitors.



Kimberly Boim Collection

The Dawsonville Moonshine Distillery

The Dawsonville Moonshine Distillery is keeping the past alive with the "Backwoods Distiller", a born and raised Dawson Countian, continuing the tradition of "Whiskey Making" and storytelling. Owner Cheryl Wood is using her decades-old family moonshine recipe and living her dream.

Visitors can hear the history of moonshine-making while taking a guided tour of the distillery, located in the same complex as the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame.

Dawsonville Moonshine Distillery
Pat Floyd Collection

PROHIBITION

Prohibition of alcohol, often referred to simply as **prohibition**, is the legal act of prohibiting the manufacture, storage, transportation and sale of alcohol and alcoholic beverages. The term can also apply to the periods in the histories of the countries during which the prohibition of alcohol was enforced.

After several years, prohibition became a failure in North America and elsewhere, as widespread and organized crime took control of the distribution of alcohol. Distilleries and breweries in other countries flourished as their products were either consumed by visiting Americans or illegally exported to the United States. Chicago became notorious as a haven for prohibition dodgers during the time known as the Roaring Twenties. Prohibition generally came to an end in the late 1920s or early 1930s in most of North America and Europe, although a few locations continued prohibition for many more years.

Prohibition focused on the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages; however, exceptions were made for medicinal and religious uses. Alcohol consumption was never illegal under federal law. Nationwide prohibition did not begin in the United States until 1920, when the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution went into effect, and was repealed in 1933, with the ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment.

Repeal of Prohibition was accomplished with the ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment, December 5, 1933. Under its terms, states were allowed to set their own laws for the control of alcohol. Following repeal, public interest in an organized prohibition movement dwindled. However, it survived for a while in a few southern and border states.

HARNESS RACING

There is not a lot known about Harness Racing in Dawson County around the 1920s and 1930s. A Dawson County Historical Society member and his sister remember going to the track where their uncle sold peanuts. The racetrack was located in the river bottoms of southern Dawson County. He remembers the old track because as a child he played all around the track.

The horse track referred to was south of Dawsonville on Highway 9 near the Etowah River. The county has built a sports complex in the vicinity where the track was located. Another Society member remembers the harness track at the Gainesville, Georgia Fairgrounds. His uncle, Ben Parks, and Ben’s brother kept horses at the stables between 1944 and 1946. He could barely remember because he was only five years old at the time. He does remember going to the track with his dad and watching the races and seeing the horses that Uncle Ben and Roy, his brother, raced. He does not remember if they actually raced themselves or they had a driver to race their horses. He does remember once getting to sit in someone's lap in the sulky and take a lap around the track.

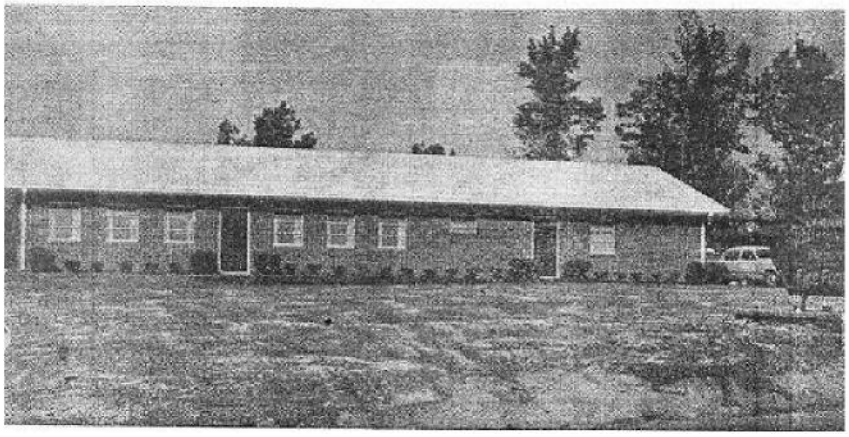
Road Houses

Roadhouses or beer joints thrived in Dawson County, in the era of the 1940s and 1950s, especially between Gainesville and Dawsonville. **The Three Gables, Shady Grove, the Black Cat's Kitten, the Bloody Bucket, Midway, the Cove, Robin's Nest** and the **Green Lantern** were among about 15 bars operating during that time.

The Three Gables
Dawsonville High School Senior Annual -1955

The Three Gables, closest to Gainesville on Highway 53, was perhaps the most popular and elaborate. It depended heavily on customers from Gainesville. The Gables was a true nightclub. People would come from all over North Georgia. The club had two bars and two dance halls. A stag bar opened during the day, and couples only were allowed at night. Bands played on the weekend. It proudly advertised its three-acre paved parking lot.

Some of the establishments didn't enjoy the best of reputations and at times were the targets of law enforcement calls. Three Gables was sold in 1947, and the new owners from Florida tried to live down any lingering unsavory reputation. "This is not a honky-tonk, but a night club which will cater exclusively to the better class trade," they declared. It continued to operate for years, but some of its past continued to haunt the place. The locals still thought of the club as a honky-tonk.



Club Martinique
***Dawson County News & Advertiser Collection* -1956**

When Lake Lanier began to rise in the mid-1950s, the Three Gables was destined to be under water. In its place the **Club Martinique** was built on higher ground on a newly built portion of Highway 53 in Dawson County near the Forsyth County line.

Some of the roadhouses or honky-tonks were: **Jack's Shack, Mountain Breeze, Sarah's Place, Cliff Pinion's, Silver Side Inn, Ed Burt's, the Pines Tourist Cabins, Blue Water Inn,** and the **Marble Inn.**

As the years passed, the roadhouses, clubs and honky-tonks gradually faded. More counties and towns allowed alcoholic beverage sales, and people poured into veterans' and other private clubs.

Ed Burt's place is being used as another business
Pat Floyd Collection

Chapter 12

In the middle of the twentieth century, Dawson County was a small mountain county with a limited tax base. The people worked hard to raise money to fund new projects needed for the county. Lake Lanier brought new people to the county to live, for the recreation, as well as business opportunities, and shopping at the new businesses. The county is still growing with more people, and housing, which requires more services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Dawson County Fire Department has come a long way since 1946 when it started as a one unit fire station in Dawsonville. R. L. Brannon, formerly of the Griffin & Brunswick Fire Department became the first fire Chief.

The first major fire occurred in 1962 and changed the history of the fire department. That was the fire that burned the Dawson County High School, known to many as "The Old Rock School." After that fire, a plan was made to split the fire department into five separate units to serve the county better. This decision was reversed in 1982 through 1984 and the department became one unit again.

Land for fire stations was donated or loaned to the county. Communities supplied the materials and local residents provided the labor to construct stations at Liberty, Kilough and Juno. There were many money raising programs that helped produce the volunteer fire department.

Firefighting training classes began in 1975 with Lt. Dick Taylor of the Hall County Fire Department as instructor. Funds were raised allowing the purchase of a 1947 Mack open cab fire engine and a 1971 Chevrolet ambulance to be stationed at the Liberty Station. A 1948 American Lafrance fire engine was on loan to the Kilough Station from the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Volunteer Fire Stations were at Dawsonville, Liberty, Kilough and Juno, but when emergencies occurred, getting the message to each department was not easy since some residents were still without telephones. Each station devised their own system of getting the message out to the volunteers.

During the period of 1975-1980, a large group of firefighters had been trained and funds had been raised for three additional fire stations to be built and equipped.

"Jaws of Life" was purchased and added to the rescue unit in 1981 with county citizens and businesses helping to raise the funds needed.

In 1984, a bond referendum was placed on the ballot to allow the citizens to vote on whether they wanted an improved fire department. The referendum passed allowing the purchase of new fire engines and construction of two new fire stations.

The commissioner hired David Paulk, firefighter/paramedic to serve as the first county fire chief. He drew a part time salary and helped lead the department through a time of change.

Dawson County Emergency Service Headquarters
Pat Floyd Collection

The City of Dawsonville had established its water system in the 1950s, so they had fire hydrants at that time. When Etowah water and sewer authority was formed in 1984, the eastern part of the county already had fire hydrants.

Over the years, the fire department has had many changes, even a name change from Dawson County Fire Department to Dawson County Fire and Rescue. They have added more equipment, but the greatest change was the implementation of an enhanced 911 system in 1996.

In 2004 Dawson County added a new emergency services administration office and Fire Station # 1 located behind City Hall.

All of these changes happened because the citizens of the county saw the need for a fire and emergency service in the growing county.

Dawson County EMS Fire Chief, Lanier Swafford, in 2000, wrote a series of articles on "The History of the Dawson County Volunteer Fire Department" to be published in the *Dawson Community News*. His articles have a treasure trove of information about the department.

MIDWIVES

Generations of Georgians have been born into the hands of rural midwives. These selfless, often delicate women played a vital role in the development and well-being of the isolated communities where they served.

A midwife's medical supplies included these basics: "A little black kittle" to boil water, some cord, a pair of scissors, and several bleached flour sacks to wrap the baby. Each midwife had a preferred remedy to ease the pain of childbirth. Teas were made from herbs, including tansy, mullen, and star grass. Apple bark and whisky were sometimes added to the brew.

Since a midwife sometimes delivered babies for two, three, or sometimes four generations of the same family, she became a reliable source for genealogical information in the area.

DOCTORS

Dawson County was blessed to have several country doctors over the years. Dr. B. H. Howard was the senior doctor for 37 years. He graduated from the Atlanta School of Medicine in 1909. He was born in Lumpkin County. He was married to the Publisher and Editor of *The Dawson County Advertiser*, Mrs. Maude Howard. Dr. B. H. Howard died at the age of 69.

Dr. and Mrs. Howard's son, Dr. Marcus Howard, carried on in his father's footsteps for many years in Dawson and Lumpkin County.

Dr. A. S. Holden was born and reared in Dawson County near Johntown. He was a graduate of the Atlanta School of Medicine and practiced for over 44 years in the mountain sections of Georgia (Dawson and Gilmer Counties). He moved to Ellijay and while living in Ellijay became the physician for the State Convict Camp in Dawson County.

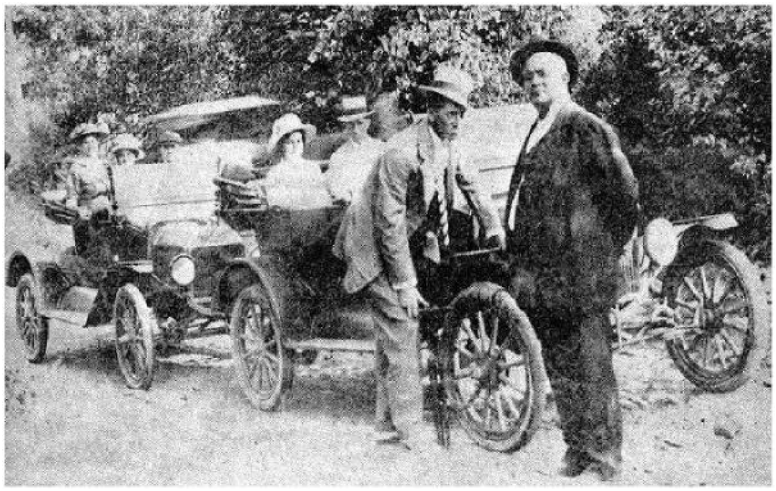
Dr. Holden passed away at age 77. His works are still remembered by descendants of the people he served.

Dr. Homer Palmour graduated from the Philadelphia Dental College in 1894. He practiced dentistry in Dawson County continuously throughout his career.

With Dawson County's growth in the last 50 years, there is no longer a shortage of doctors, dentists, and doctors of specialty in the medical field within the county.

HEALTH CLINIC

The Dawson County Health Clinic constructed in 1950 served as the only medical facility in the county. Without a doctor in the county, the facility served the health needs of the residents with a health access station where a nurse practitioner treated illnesses and prescribed needed medicines. During the 1970s, Dr. Hemphill came to the Health Clinic for one-half day each week. In 1976 the health station was converted into the present clinic after doctors became available through The Dawson Family Practice.

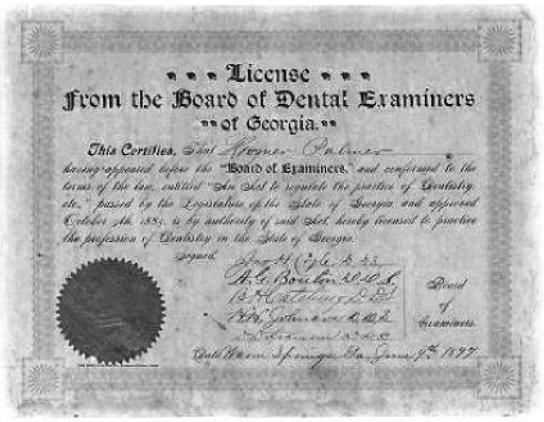


Dr. A. S. Holden is the man in dark suit
Charles Finley Collection

Dawson County Health Clinic
Pat Floyd Collection

The clinic was expanded in 1991 to offer more services with a personal touch. The expansion was funded by a special option one-cent sales tax. The additions gave the building a more modern look and helped increase the clinic's efficiency.

The Health Department makes health care available to many who would otherwise neglect their health due to circumstances or not being able to afford a doctor visit. Among the services offered are the following: giving pre-school shots and health examinations, Pap-Smears, AIDS screening, Teen Family Planning, Stroke and Heart Attack Prevention, Dental Health, Family Planning, and Diabetes Screenings.



License
From the Board of Dental Examiners
of Georgia.

This Certifies, That ... has appeared before the "Board of Examiners," and conformed to the terms of the law, entitled "An Act to regulate the practice of Dentistry etc," passed by the Legislature of the State of Georgia and approved October 4th 1887, is by authority of said Act, hereby licensed to practice the profession of Dentistry in the State of Georgia.

Signed ... Board of Examiners

License from the Board of Dental Examiners of Georgia
Found in office of Dawson County Historical Society

DAWSON FAMILY PRACTICE

The National Health Services Corp furnished salaries for doctors in underserved health areas. In 1976, Dawson County remodeled a portion of a county-owned building located on Highway 53 West to provide facilities for a doctor and the following doctors were employed: Dr. Mark Funk, Dr. David Whitcomb, Dr. John Sebas, Dr. Scott Anderson, Dr. James Beall, and Dr. Paul Behrmann. After the initial period paid by the National Health Services Corp, the doctors left Dawson County

for employment elsewhere except for Dr. Behrmann. Dr. Behrmann started his own private practice and continued in the same office in Dawsonville until he joined the Northeast Georgia Physicians Group near the intersection ofGeorgia 400 and Highway 53. This group moved to Medical Plaza 400 in 2013.

MEDICAL PLAZA 400

Medical Plaza 400- Dawsonville
Pat Floyd Collection

Beginning in 2013, Dawson County's residents have local access to the specialty services of Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) through its medical office building, Medical Plaza 400. These services include: Urgent Care; All digital Imaging Center; HealthLink Laboratory; Northeast Georgia Physicians Group (NGPG) Family Medicine; and Physician specialists including, Gastroenterology, Neurology, Sports Medicine, Surgery and Urology.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dawson County's first urgent care was opened by Dr. Gary Berliner in 2002. It was called the Chestatee Emergent Medical Care and located at the intersection of Highway 53 and Thompson Road. The facility is equipped with X-ray and other emergency equipment. It is still in operation, offering another alternative to the emergency room of the hospital.

Chestatee Emergent
Medical Care
Pat Floyd Collection

Dawson County's next milestone in urgent care came when Northside Hospital opened an Urgent Care Center on December 3, 2012 at 91 Nordson Drive. The residents with minor medical emergencies and in need of specialty care or MRI services no longer have to cross county lines for high-quality care.

Northside Hospital – Urgent Care Center
Faye Bruce Collection

Northside has a radiologist on-site at the Urgent Care Center, and the facility allows the area physicians to look at the results together even though they are located in different offices.

Northside/Dawson Imaging came to Dawson County in 2008 offering high-quality radiology/imaging services for patients of all ages.

Northside Hospital has now expanded the Radiology services to the Dawson Medical Campus with the addition of MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) for Brain, Spine, and Orthopedic Exams. This facility also offers CT Scans, Digital Screening Mammography, Digital x-Ray, Bone Densitometry, and Ultrasound Exams. Board certified, Sub-specialized Radiologists read and interpret all exams performed at Northside/Dawson Imaging.

Although Dawson County doesn't have a hospital, there are three in nearby Georgia Counties: Chestatee Regional Hospital in Dahlonega, Northeast Georgia Medical Center, in Gainesville, and Northside/Forsyth Hospital, in Cumming.

SHERIFFS

If you take a tour through the old jail in downtown Dawsonville, it's easy to be transported back to the past when lawmen rode horses and prisoners wore stripes. This could be comparing the past with the present as a sign of how complicated times have become or of how advanced.

When the county was formed, David S. Petit was the first to take office. Elected sheriffs frequently would serve multiple terms. There were times, however, when a sheriff died before his term was finished. George J. Reese died a few days short of his term and according to the newspaper, A. L. Roper died and there was a notice of election to fill his term. William Orr was killed while in office, and there have been others that have resigned and did not serve their full term.

It's been more common than not in the county for sheriffs to serve multiple terms, stretching their run in office over a span of years, sometimes decades. Charlie Crawford and William Glen Wallace were two sheriffs whose terms, served consecutively, covered more than 30 years.

Crawford's family lived at Crawford Falls near Shoal Creek, but Wallace's family lived in the jail for a time. During these times it was the sheriff's family who took care of the prisoners and cooked for them. Occasionally they also cooked for the deputies as well.

The following men and one woman have been sheriff since Dawson County was formed in 1857: David Petit, Samuel Findley, Horatio Tatum, G.R. Robinson, Priestly Willis, Robert Barrett, William Chester, Reuben Burt, George Reece, Joseph Reece, W.W. Hill, R.A. Elliott, A.J. Roper, W.W. Hill, W.J. Orr, C.A. Allen, V.M. Harben, J.W. Shoemaker, A.L. Roper, J.C. Young, C.E. Crawford, Glen Wallace, Rufus (Pete) Talley, Toy Jenkins, Pete Ledbetter, Major Hamby, Roy Helton, John Davis, Ford Bannister, Randy Chester, Beatrice Chester, and Billy Carlisle.

Over the years there have been many who served as sheriff and many changes in this department. The county now has a modern jail near the new Government Center.

PARKS & RECREATION

The Bowen family deeded land to help in developing and enlarging the Recreation Area in 1982. They had previously donated l.5 acres for the Recreation Area which is located on Highway 9, north of Dawsonville.

In the spring of 2007 the park was renamed "Veterans Memorial Park" which has football fields, a swimming pool, baseball fields, tennis courts, gymnasium, an outdoor basketball court, outdoor covered pavilions and a new walking trail.

The Dawson County Senior Center is located in this park, and used daily by the senior citizens of Dawson County. The Dawson County Senior Center was located in the basement of the County Medical Building until 1992 when a grant was received to build a new center in the County Park. Margie Weaver was director of the center until her untimely death in 2013. During the time Mrs. Weaver was director many improvements were made to the building and the services offered. After her death the center was renamed The Margie Weaver Senior Services Center. The present director in 2014 is Dawn Pruett.

The Veterans Memorial Park also has a wall featuring names of veterans who served during war time.

Rock Creek Sports Complex is located on Highway 9 South, and has soccer fields, baseball, softball, and T-ball fields, tennis courts, gymnasiums, indoor meeting rooms, paved walking trail, outdoor and

indoor basketball courts, and outdoor covered pavilions. The main administrative offices are at this location.

War Hill Park was leased to Dawson County with a 25-year lease by the Corps of Engineers in 2008. Prior to that time, the county managed the park through a maintenance contract signed with the corps in 2005.

Margie Weaver Senior Services Center
Pat Floyd Collection

The park has 14 primitive campsites with a fire pit, charcoal grill, and lantern hook. Day-use areas have picnic tables, swings, grills, benches, a bath house, and boat ramps that are available based on lake water levels.

War Hill Park
Pat Floyd Collection

Chapter 13

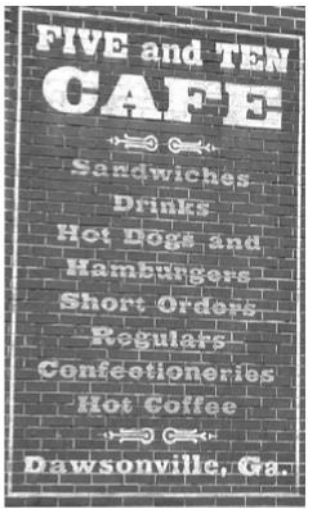
Over the years the county had many businesses come and go. Some have grown and some have left for other places. It would be impossible to name all of them but a few are listed here.

INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

G. O. Perry Bargain Company had an advertisement in the December 8, 1939*, Dawson County Advertiser*. The advertisement offered a close-out sale of all winter goods at a special low price. When Mr. Perry passed away, Mrs. Perry sold the mercantile establishment and moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Fouts Cash Store purchased the entire stock of general merchandise from Roy P. Otwell of Cumming, who had bought the mercantile establishment from Mrs. G. O. Perry. Dawsonville 5-and-10 Store was opened in 1941 at the G. O. Perry Building. It had rock bottom prices on sundries, groceries, soft drinks, candies, and toys. They paid top market prices for barter in exchange for merchandise. Later a café was opened in the rear of the store and served hot lunches, sandwiches, hot dogs, pies, soft drinks, and hot coffee.

Mrs. Lee J. Anderson leased the Dawsonville 5-and-10 store and café from Mrs. B. H. Howard in 1946. The location of this store was in the red brick building, south of Dawsonville on Highway 9.



Café sign can be found in Dawsonville today Pat Floyd Collection

The Dawson County Advertiser, dated April 26, 1946, printed a Petition for a Charter for "Chenille and Tufting Company," by Mrs. W. F. Summerour, Mrs. Irma Seay Summerour, and H. C. Summerour.

"The Red Brick Building" has been used by many over years, and can still be found south of Dawsonville Pat Floyd Collection

An article printed in the *Dawson County Advertiser,* dated May 3, 1946, announced Dawson County's first industrial plant opened and began operation of the Summerour Chenille and Tufting Company in the former G. O. Perry Store Building with H. C. Summerour as Manager; Ray Kinsey, Designer; A. J. Hix, Mechanic; and Miss Liberty Whitcomb, Forelady. All were experienced in this type of work. The dye and laundry work was done by the Callaway Plant in Dalton. The Dawsonville Plant employed 60 people and had 40 machines running. The plant was expected to produce 200 pieces daily of bedspreads, scatter rugs, and bath mats.

Stanley Radio and Appliance Service, formerly known as Silver City Radio Shop, was relocated to Highway 19, across from the Dawsonville School. The shop was owned and operated by Mr. T. L. Stanley. His advertisement dated August 16, 1946, stated he had new electric and battery operated radios and electric irons in stock for as long as they last.

Slaton's Tea Room had an advertisement in the Dawson County newspaper, October 4, 1946, stating "Polly put the Kettle on and let's have Tea. We have sandwiches, home-cooked lunches, drinks, smokes, ice cream, and candies." This was also the location to buy a ticket for the Dahlonega Bus Line and where the bus stopped to transfer passengers.

Dawsonville Pool Room
Pat Floyd Collection

Dawsonville Pool Room is the home of the Bully Burger and of racing history memorabilia. This small eating establishment has made an impact on the rest of the world like nothing else could have for Dawsonville. The "world famous" Bully Burger is named for "Bully" Thurmond, now deceased, who was a long-time employee of the Pool Room. You can get an education about Dawson County racing history at this location from viewing the vast collection of memorabilia. The Pool Room is one of the top tourist destinations in Dawsonville. Everyone likes to see the history and eat at the Pool Room.

Outside the Thunder Road
Racing Complex
Pat Floyd Collection

Thunder Road Racing Complex opened in May 2002 and is located on Highway 53 East. The complex houses the Dawsonville City Hall, the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame Museum, and the Moonshine Distillery. Dawsonville is known as the birthplace of stock car racing which has evolved from the revenuers chasing the bootleggers. What could be more appropriate than a distillery located in the same complex as the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame Museum?

Gold Creek Golf Resort had a conference center and club house with a residential section. The restaurants at Gold Creek were the Water's Edge Café, Swan Lake Dining Room, and the Gentry Grill. The Golf Club had an 8-hole championship course. Architect and designer Mike Young described the Gold Creek Course as "having the most naturally shaped landscape for golf that I have seen." The conference center, club house, restaurants and golf course are no longer in service. In 2014, Gold Creek is a residential subdivision only.

Gold Creek Golf Resort Conference Center
Pat Floyd Collection

The 18-hole championship golf course, Chestatee Golf Club and Resort, was designed by noted architect Denis Griffits. Chestatee is an upscale exclusive residential community of luxury homes with portions of the development sitting on Lake Lanier frontage.

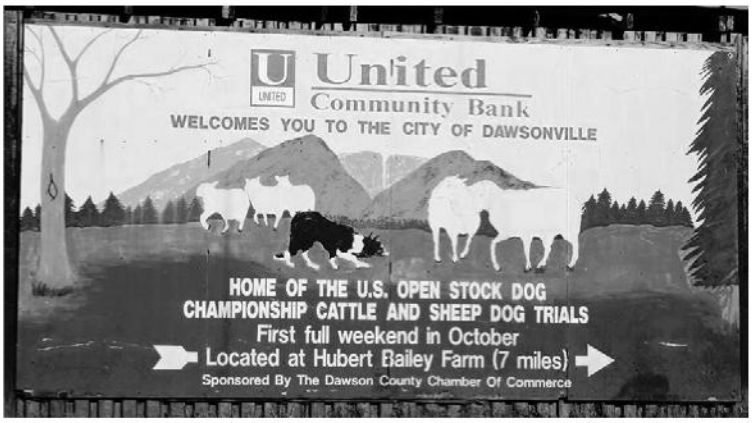
Big Canoe, Georgia, is a common interest development gated community, consisting of over 8,000 acres, located in the mountains north of Atlanta, Georgia. It is located between Jasper, Georgia, and Dawsonville, Georgia. It has about 3100 full-time residents and as many weekenders. Following the death of Steve Tate, the Wolfscratch property was sold. It lay unused for a number of years, until Cousins Properties in Atlanta and the Sea Pines Corporation of Hilton Head partnered to create the community of Big Canoe in 1972. Fifteen years later, the Byme Corporation assumed responsibility for developing and marketing the property.

The property includes three man-made lakes, Petit, Sconti, and Disharoon. Lake Petit, the largest lake, supplies the community's drinking water.

Almost one-third of the total property has been set aside as wildlife areas and parks.

U. S. Open Stock Dog Championship was an event that took place in Dawson County for several years. This event was held in October of each year at the Bailey Farm on Bailey-Waters Road. The Dawson County Chamber of Commerce and the Bailey family sponsored the event. It grew larger each year that it was held.

More than 100 dog handlers from throughout the United States and Canada were participating in the three day event. Both cattle and sheep were worked at the trials. The handlers were all ages from various backgrounds. There were four separate categories based on the separate and combined


United
Community Bank
WELCOMES YOU TO THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE
HOME OF THE U.S. OPEN STOCK DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP CATTLE AND SHEEP DOG TRIALS
First full weekend in October
Located at Hubert Bailey Farm (7 miles)
Sponsored By The Dawson County Chamber Of Commerce

Sign telling of the U.S.Open Stock Dog Championship can still be seen in South Carolina at Red Creek Farms.
Pat Floyd Collection

experience of the dog handlers. Experience levels ranged from the novice level to the professional handlers and dogs. The trial courses required both cattle and sheep to be maneuvered around an obstacle course into a pen.

This event no longer takes place in Dawson County. The Georgia Stock Dog Association holds a spring, fall, and Christmas event in Georgia each year.

Kangaroo Conservation Center was the largest kangaroo collection outside of Australia. The Center was a privately owned wildlife facility which relocated to Dawson County in late 1998. The wildlife facility was located on Bailey-Waters Road with tours which required reservations. The Kangaroo Conservation Center closed in late 2013.

Paradise Valley Resort and Club was founded in 1978 as Hidden Valley Resort, a campground for couples and singles to explore nature in the natural. The resort was sold in 2003 to Paradise Lakes, located in Florida. The Resort was transformed into Georgia Premier Clothing Optional Resort. Today this is a year round community offering RV sites for nightly, weekly, and yearly rental, motel rooms, condominiums and apartments for long term lease, and home sites.

Atlanta Motorsports Park is located on Duck Thurmond Road, off Highway 53 West. Their goal is to provide a fun place for family and friends to enjoy all of the amenities of a country club and the thrill of motorsports.

Ka-Bar Cutlery, Inc. had achieved a high level of recognition by 1952. Under Danforth Brown's leadership and the decision of the board, manufacturing operations were transferred from New York to Dawsonville, Georgia in 1958. This became a short-lived experiment. With this move a failure, the company regrouped and moved the manufacturing facility back to New York.

There are many hours of training the dog.
Hubert Bailey as he works with Hemp.
The Bailey Collection

According to an article in *The Dawson County Advertiser* on July 31, 1958, the building that Ka-Bar occupied belonged to the Dawson County Development Corporation again. The Corporation had contacted the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Power Company, advising them of the availability of the building.

This is a knife that shows the Ka Bar name
Peggy Taylor Hulsey Collection

Sweet-Orr Company opened in the building vacated by Ka-Bar in 1959 and by 1963 employed people. Most of the employees were women seamstresses. They were manufacturing Boy Scout uniform shirts.

Not much was printed about Sweet-Orr, but the company was honored by the Labor Commissioner, Sam Caldwell, for its outstanding safety program. A Safety Award was presented by Safety Representative, Wayne Reed, for no lost-time accidents covering the period beginning November 6, 1973, and ending July 12, 1975. Accepting the award for the company was Mr. E. C. Scofield, plant manager. The plant closed in December 1998.

Universal Rubber Products, Inc. moved to Dawson County and occupied the old school building at Highway 53 East and Lumpkin Campground Road. The schools had consolidated leaving this building vacant. Terry Star of Alpharetta, Georgia and John Barron of Portland, Oregon retired from the Voit Rubber Company and opened Universal Rubber Products in 1969. The company made items ranging from window sealing materials to rubber roadbed for HQ and N scales electric trains. After 28 years in Dawson County, the parent company consolidated its operation to the Ohio headquarters. The plant had 55 employees working three shifts five or six days a week when the closing announcement came down.

Kaufman Footwear purchased the Universal Rubber Products plant in 1986, but soon sold it to Rubatex, Inc. Rubatex Inc. manufactures closed cell foam in bun form, which is then sold to customers to convert into rolls, sheets, and fabricated pieces.

Branson’s Furniture Manufacturing was located in the old Westside School building in the western part of Dawson County. This was a family business that moved from the mountains of Virginia to the hills of Dawsonville. They manufactured oak framed furniture, including sofas, loveseats, ottomans, and wingback chairs covered in custom fabrics. Mrs. Branson made custom window treatments, draperies, bedspreads, and upholstered furniture for the public.

The Country Cupboard Convenience Stores were started in 1975 by Mr. Billy Wallace. The Country Cupboard was a family operation. Mr. Wallace was joined in the management of the company by his sons, David and Russ Wallace.

At first the Wallace family had only two stores, both in Dawsonville. The stores did very well and they grew very fast from two stores to over 67 stores in 14 counties in North Georgia. Most of the stores either had a deli, or some kind of restaurant, such as Billie’s which featured fried chicken.

In 1999, the Wallace family sold the Country Cupboard Convenience Stores to Quick Serve and later the Country Cupboard stores were closed.

Miller's Cloth Shop is one of the oldest family-owned and operated businesses still in existence in Dawson County. The shop was operated by Mr. Eldon Miller, his wife, Doris, and their daughter, Glenda. Mr. Miller said it all began with the purchase of an $18.00 box of quilting scraps in 1968. Although the Millers once owned five stores in North Georgia, the stores in Dawson County and Morganton, Georgia, are the only ones that remain.

Customers have come from around the country to shop at the New Hope Road Shop in Dawson County. The Miller name has woven its way to customers despite the business being off the beaten path. Word of mouth has been the most productive form of advertising for the business according to Mr. Miller.

For most people in Dawson County it is hard to imagine life without electricity. But for people born before the end of World War II, particularly in rural areas of the county, the memories of life without electricity are hard to forget with no running water, no refrigerators, and no electric lights. Electricity first came to Dawsonville through the efforts of Mr. Bob Howser. In 1917, Mr. Howser installed an electric plant at the Howser Mill on Shoal Creek and furnished lights for Dawsonville until 1942 when he sold his power plant to the Georgia Power Company.

The remainder of the county did not have electricity until after President Franklin Roosevelt established the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to bring electricity to rural areas. Leaders in rural communities convinced neighbors to sign up for electricity and to become members of electric cooperatives. These electric memberships (EMCs) worked diligently to obtain loans from Washington and to build their network of electric lines.

Electricity gradually became available to the rural communities during the 1940s and the early part of the 1950s. In 2014, Dawson County is served by the Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation and the Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation as well as the Georgia Power Company. An occasional ice storm knocks the power off and gives a brief taste of what life is like without electricity.

Gold Creek Foods was established in 2003 in Dawsonville. Gold Creek Foods is an industry specialist in precision sizing and cuts focusing on quality and cost. Gold Creek's brand has become one of the most requested products internationally, and they ship millions of pounds of USDA Approved/Inspected poultry to over 65 countries worldwide each week.

Lockheed Nuclear Laboratory - During the late 1930s and early 1940s, Roscoe Tucker, of Dawson County, purchased several farms. By the 1950's, he had obtained enough land to compose a single tract of over 10,000 acres. In 1956, efforts to establish a military research facility in southern Dawson County were beginning with the United States Federal Government, the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Air Force involved. The needed land was purchased from the Tucker holdings.

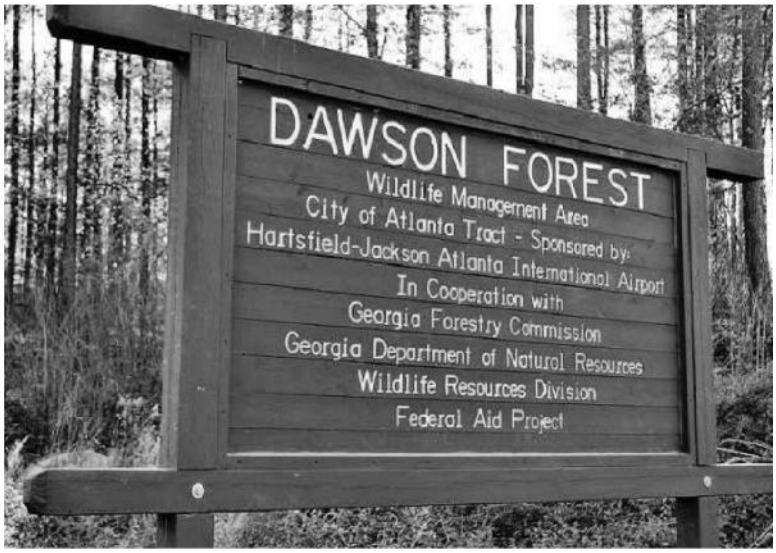
An article in the *Dawson County News*, June 5th, 1958, had the following information:
Lockheed Aircrafts Georgia Division today announced the names of 84 persons who will be transferred to the Georgia Nuclear Laboratories near Dawsonville by the end of the year. Most employees will be scientists, engineers, and nuclear specialists. It will be sometime in 1959 before the facility will be in full scale operation.

The Georgia Nuclear Aircraft Laboratory, the only one of its kind in the world, was operated by Lockheed Aircraft Corporation for the U.S. Air Force. The intention was to design a nuclear powered airplane, but the project was not successful.

The site was decommissioned and closed in 1971 by Lockheed. The land has continuously been monitored for environmental and health effects since the 1971 closing of the site. The 1991- 1997 studies

performed for radiation levels were found to be slightly above normal in and around the fenced areas. It was decided to maintain the public access restriction in this area.

The property was purchased by the City of Atlanta in 1973 and there was no land management. During 1973 through 1975, the access roads on the property became washed out and overgrown. There was excessive dumping of garbage and debris on the site. As a result, the City of Atlanta asked the Georgia Forestry Commission to manage the City's land holdings in Dawson County. In July of 1975, the Forestry Commission and the City of Atlanta signed an agreement that established the Georgia Forestry Commission as managers of the "Dawson Forest".



Dawson Forest Sign
Kimberly Boim Collection

The Georgia Forestry Commission entered into agreements with the Georgia DNR Game and Fish Division (currently Wildlife Resources Division) which created the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area. The agreement with the City of Atlanta stated that they owned the lands and that it would be available for public hunting and fishing and that the DNR would develop areas for wildlife within the forest.

The roads have been restored and gates added to limit traffic and reduce damage to secondary roads. Posted signs were added around the boundaries. Over the years, equestrian and bicycle trails were designed to run through the southern two-thirds of the forest.

Agriculture has been, and will continue to be, an important sector of the economic base of Dawson County. Agricultural production also creates an economic positive ripple effect. It is estimated that each dollar of agricultural production generates seven dollars in economy (for example: farm supply sales, trucking and labor).

Poultry is still the foundation of Dawson County's agriculture. People of Dawson County have always had chickens. In the beginning, they had chickens just for eggs and occasionally for Sunday dinner. The chickens roamed loose or had a pen around the egg and roosting house. They ate grass, bugs, and scraps from the table. In winter, they were fed corn bread or corn meal mixed with water.

In later years, after World War II, the poultry houses became a common sight in Dawson County. A large percentage of the rural families had at least one small house to grow broilers. This furnished a supplemental income, or in some cases, the only income. Most of the care for the broiler houses was done by the women and children, allowing the man to work elsewhere. At this time, the feed for the chickens also served as a bonus, because the feed was brought in cotton sacks which were a solid color, white, or a print. The women used these sacks to make pillow cases, curtains, clothing, etc. Nothing was wasted.

Dawson County had numerous hatcheries and distributors who also had their own feed mills. To name a few: W. L. Tatum was a Georgia Domestic Profit Corporation. In the *Poultry Times* dated 1975,

The early chicken houses were much smaller than this, but as time went on, the houses became much larger.
Pat Floyd Collection

Mr. Tatum stated that his interest in poultry began in the 1940s with FFA broilers and layers as projects which later turned into a world-wide network for the distribution of broilers and commercial layers and broiler eggs. Mr. Tatum bred such breeds as Arbor Acres White Rock, Nichols New Hampshires, Vantress Cornish Cross, and Indian River Crosses.

Billy Wallace Feed and Poultry Company was located on Highway 9 between Dawsonville and Dahlonega. One of his advertisements stated that he sold Chemell's chicks and Master Mix Feed.

There were other small dealers in the county such as Payne Feed and Poultry Company, Inc.; Burt's Feed and Poultry; Vearl Waters Poultry; and others.

In the late fifties a company called VanTress, headquartered in Arkansas, came to Dawson County. They built an experimental farm to test a new method of growing broilers and laying hens in a controlled environment and feeding a specific type of protein food. Their goal was to have a disease free, larger broiler grown at a faster rate, and hens that produced a larger quantity of eggs. These birds were tested for sickness or disease by drawing blood and banding their legs with a number. This was done on a routine schedule. If the blood test revealed a problem, the band number had to be found and the chicken removed for further testing.

Livestock such as beef cattle, horses, swine, and sheep all add to the agricultural base. Feed stores have added to the local economy. Dawson County has a cattleman's association with 25 members.

The Commercial Green Industry is another important and growing component of Dawson County's agriculture. As the number of homeowners has increased so has the demand for ornamentals and bedding plants. This is evidenced by the increasing number of greenhouses and garden centers in Dawson County. There also has been a turf grass farm in the county since 2010.

Great group of cattle
Kimberly Boim Collection

The Recreational Green/Home Farm Industry is very important to the County economy also. This consists of Burt's Pumpkin Farm, located on Highway 52 North, and Bradley's Pumpkin Patch, located on Highway 183 North. There is also Bucks' Corn Maize, located on New Hope Road just off Bailey-Waters Road, and Uncle Shucks' Corn Maize, located on Highway 53 west of Georgia 400. Families flock to these areas each fall for the great atmosphere, to wander through the corn, and to buy pumpkins, gourds, squashes, and other home grown products, such as corn, jellies and jams, melons, and rustic decorations for Holiday decorating.

Many fields of pumpkins can be found growing in Dawson County
Kimberly Boim Collection

Chapter 14

Lake Lanier and the Georgia 400 corridor changed Dawson County from a small mountain county to a small thriving metropolis. Both have brought people, industry, medical services, shopping, restaurants/fast food, and recreation such as, boating, fishing, camping, parks, hiking, lodging, and tourists.

Highway 53/Georgia 400 Corridor -2014
Faye Bearden Bruce Collection

LAKE LANIER

Lake Lanier brought large changes to Dawson County when it was built in the 1950s and flooded land in several counties. At the normal pool of elevation which is 1017.00 feet with 540 miles of shoreline, the lake covers 38,000 acres of land. The lake was named for 19th century poet Sidney C. Lanier, a Georgia native, who wrote the poem "Song of the Chattahoochee."

The lake was built to control flooding and to regulate navigation as well as a water source, power production and recreation. Dawson County's appearance was changed forever with roads re-routed and relocation of people.

The dam was built on the Chattahoochee River, with the groundbreaking ceremony on March 1, 1950, when the first saddle dike construction began. The dam and three smaller saddle dikes, built of raw earth instead of concrete to keep costs low, were begun. The main dam is 192 feet high and 2,360 feet long. The total length of the saddle dike system is 6,600 feet. On the west side of the main dam, the powerhouse, a large concrete building, was constructed in a depression excavated from solid rock. The powerhouse contains the equipment to produce electricity, and to regulate the flow of water released from the lake back into the Chattahoochee River.

One of the largest and most difficult tasks was ahead for the government. The land had to be purchased for the location of the reservoir. The first tract of land was purchased in April, 1954. Dawson

County property owners were predominately on the east side of the county and many of them had to sell their land and relocate their homes and businesses. One known business that had to sell and relocate was the Three Gables owned by C. C. Anderson. He also owned the Twin Tanks service station. The Club Martinique was opened on the new part of Highway 53 in Dawson County, to replace Mr. Anderson's relocated business. That building now is the Church at War Hill and also houses a school.

Boat Ramp at War Hill Park with a view of the lake.
Pat Floyd Collection

Many bridges had to be replaced and the roads had to be rerouted. The Nix Bridge located on the Chestatee River in Dawson County and several other smaller bridges were not rebuilt because the expanse of water was too great. Some of the highways completely disappeared and were rerouted over or around the lake when the expanse was too great to build a bridge. A great many of the roads would just dead-end at or near the water's edge and were later used as boat ramps. Highway 53, one of Dawson County's main roads to Gainesville was in-part relocated. Parts of the old road can still be found in a few locations. One instance is where Highway 53 and Dawson Forest Road meet, and again in the War Hill area in Dawson County. Each time the old road bed runs into the lake and disappears.

A landmark in Hall County known as Looper's Speedway, owned by a member of the Looper family of Dawson County, was covered by the lake. This was a dirt track located in a narrow channel surrounding what would eventually become Laurel Park. The track was a popular place for weekend race enthusiasts and a forerunner to the popular stock car racing. There was an entrance gate where visitors paid their two dollars to watch the race, a concession area and observation platform. The concrete portions of the bleachers have been seen by divers and also are above water during extremely low lake levels.

In a ceremony atop the left bank of the main earth dam, the intake gate switches were thrown just before noon on February 1, 1956, just one month shy of six years from the groundbreaking ceremony. The dedication for Buford Dam was held on October 9, 1957, with U.S. Sen. Richard Russell as the main guest speaker and people from all walks of life attended the dedication.

The lake has brought many changes and a lot of growth to Dawson County since that day in history. David Coughlin's book "The History of Lake Lanier, A Story Book Site" is a good reference source and includes illustrations.

North Georgia Premium Outlet Mall

The Chelsea Property Group began construction on the Dawson County Outlet Mall in 1995. It was built over a period of 11 months. This is one of the largest designer outlet malls in North Georgia and is located at the junction of Georgia 400 and Highway 53.

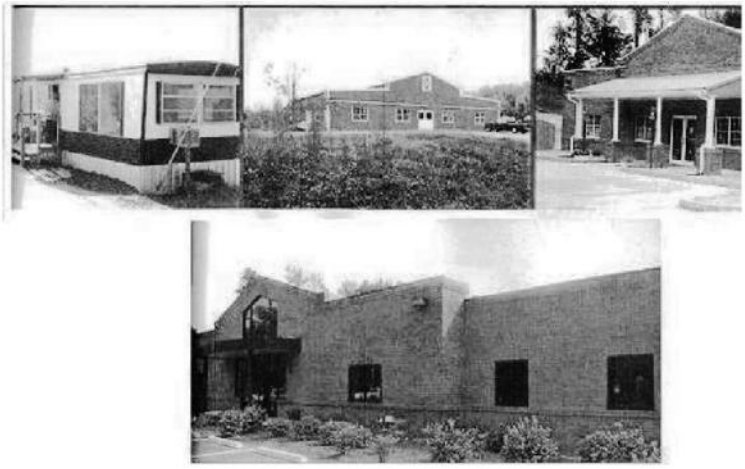
The mall opened its doors in 1996, making this one of the largest sources of employment for Dawson County. The mall contains more than 140 retail outlet stores.

Pat Floyd Collection

Dawson County Water & Sewerage Services

It all started in the 1970s when local citizens rallied the community, local elected officials, and state lawmakers to sell them on the idea of a countywide public water system. Their efforts gained momentum, and in 1980 Georgia's General assembly passed legislation creating the Etowah Water & Sewer Authority (EWSA).

A Board of Directors was selected to secure commitment from enough prospective customers to justify a loan from FHA. Once the loan was secured, and a grant was obtained, the groundwork for the first water treatment plant in Dawson County was initiated.



Over the years, Dawson County Water & Sewerage has had four different offices.

In June 1986, EWSA began providing water service to Dawson County citizens with a permit to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day from the Etowah River. Today, the water needs are thirty times that amount or 3 million gallons per day with the Hightower Water Treatment Facility plant serving approximately 5,200 customers. The facility is currently being expanded to 5.5 million gallons a day with some construction provisions to carry the plant to the next expansions.

The Dawson Forest Water Reclamation Facility, the first wastewater treatment plant was put into service to serve the growth of commercial and business along the eastern part of the county around the Georgia 400 corridor. The Dawson Forest Water Reclamation Facility recently finished the second expansion to bring the facility to 500,000 GPD permitted capacities and the authority is already in the process of the third expansion to 1 MGD. Through a series of phases over the next 30 years, the facility will reach 10 MGD and will include a direct river discharge after the next expansion.

The Georgia 400 corridor served as the catalyst for commercial, residential and industrial development throughout the county. The demand for additional water would exceed the supply if not for the forward thinking of the past Board and General Manager, Sandy Adams, as well as the present Board and General Manager, Brooke Anderson, to plan for the future with infrastructure in place to support the inevitable growth of the future. The Authority is growing steadily and currently planning for an adequate water supply and wastewater collection to meet the future water and wastewater needs of their customers.

In January 2008, a 404 permit was submitted to the U.S. Corps of Engineers for a reservoir project with plans to begin construction in the next few years as necessary permits, assessments and plans are finalized with the regulatory agencies.

The EWSA has earned numerous state and national awards for treatment, operations, customer service, conservation, and public education.

Frosty Mountain Natural Spring Water Company

The crystal clear water from a spring just off Highway 183 used to babble down the hollow and into Cochran Creek, but now makes its way into grocery and convenience stores of North Georgia and the South.

Danny Harben and his mother, Mrs. Maude Harben, opened Frosty Mountain Spring Water Company in 1996 after five years of consideration.

The Harbens had the water tested in Atlanta and were told it was some of the purist water they'd ever tested.

The water is ionized or electrically charged in the plant, but that, Mr. Harben said, only gives the water a longer unrefrigerated shelf life. The water could be bottled without that step.

The Harbens were advised to get a good label. An Atlanta graphics company was hired and they produced several labels using a stylized Frosty Mountain which really exists. The mountain is north of their home and once had a forest tower. Mrs. Harben liked the color purple for the label, "Everybody has blue," she explained.

Mr. Harben's trucking background came in handy because the water had to be transported to Atlanta for distribution to convenience stores, grocery stores, and many others.

Dawsonville City Water

In 1953 the city of Dawsonville built the first water system in Dawson County by developing an existing spring in the city limits of the city. The first large tank was constructed about the same time. The City of Dawsonville now operates four groundwater wells and a spring, two elevated storage tanks, with two wells under construction. Water is monitored continuously to ensure drinking quality.

Dawsonville built its sewer system in 1963. The Sweet-Orr company was one of the first and largest employer businesses to have a sewer line installed.

Dawsonville's First Water Tank
Myrna West and Nalita Copeland Collection

Dawsonville Lions Club

The Dawsonville Lions Club held its first meeting January 15th, 1953, and was granted a charter February 2nd, 1953. The charter was presented to the Club February 16th, 1953. Their sponsor was the Dahlonega Lions Club. The Dawsonville Lions Club became the first service club in Dawson County.

The sight conservation program, which provides eye exams and eyeglasses for the needy in the community, was established the first year and still exists today. Service projects started with financial

help for the purchase of a fire engine, the building of a log cabin for the Boy Scout troop and programs at the schools and the community. Over the years, the programs have been expanded to include educational programs such as Dawson County High School scholarships, the Dawson County Library, Wee Books, the R.E.A.D. program and many others.

Fundraising needed to support the various projects started with wrestling matches, chicken barbecues and other miscellaneous projects. Today, the major fundraisers are a charity golf tournament, White Cane Day, a raffle and the Moonshine Festival.

Jaycees

The Starbright Mountain Moonshine Festival had something to offer for everyone to enjoy: racing heroes, talk of moonshine days, cars, food, home goods, art, books, jewelry, etc.

Sponsorship of the festival by the Jaycees began some years after it was started by Fred Goswick and other local citizens who set up tables around the old courthouse to sell hand-made or homemade goods, produce, art and to promote Dawson County's Racing and Moonshine Heritage. The Jaycees brought in their expertise in organization and publicity skills and made the festival a charity event for children. Unfortunately, the Jaycees organization no longer exists in Dawson County. **Care for Kids** sponsors the festival now. The income proceeds from the festival goes to provide toys, clothes, and food for children at Christmas time, and continues to provide for needy families during the year.

Chamber of Commerce

The Dawson County Chamber of Commerce was incorporated on June 28th, 1977. The original board members included long time Dawson County residents such as Dwight Gilleland, Don Gordon, Ralph Pirkle, Billy Wallace, Russ Wallace, Betty Jo Turner, and Edna Goswick. Until 1990, the Chamber was run by volunteers and part-time staff. During this time, membership grew at a relatively slow pace. Much of the focus of the Chamber was in the promotion of tourism through special events and utilization of our natural resources, such as the Amicalola and Etowah Rivers.

In 1991, a full-time staff person was hired under the direction of then president Philip Hester. Economic development was added to the functions of the staff, and the program of work for the Chamber of Commerce was expanded to include full-charge committees specializing in areas including education, tourism, and community and business development.

Today, the Chamber is an action-oriented membership of businesses, professionals, retirees, and concerned individuals representing the best interest of Dawson County.

Dawson County Woman's Club

The Dawson County Woman's Club was organized and chartered by the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs in 1979 with about 30 members.

These are a few of the projects which the Club helped to spearhead: complete renovation of the historic courthouse; purchase of "Jaws of Life," defibrillation monitors and two-way radios for E M S; purchase of bullet-proof vest, radar systems and a "drug dog" for Sheriff's Department; sponsoring organization of the local Historical and Genealogical Society; and providing much support for the Senior Citizens Center.

In addition to its own community activities, the Club consistently cooperates with other civic organizations and local government agencies on more extensive projects. Also, the local group participates in State and International Federation undertakings.

Dawson County Historical & Genealogical Society

In the fall of 1986, the Dawson County Woman's Club sponsored a public meeting for the announced purpose of determining whether or not there was interest in the county for forming a historical society.

About forty people attended, many of whom spoke briefly. The vote was an overwhelming "Yes". Woman's Club President Helen Taylor appointed a steering committee with Mrs. Mary Smith as chairman. This group formulated a Constitution and By-Laws, proposed a slate of officers, and held their first organizational meeting in January 1987.

Some of the accomplishments by the Society: Publication of the three following books: *Dawson County, Georgia Heritage 1857–1996, Cemeteries of Dawson County, Georgia*, and *Dawson County, Georgia, Pictorial: The First Hundred Years (1857-1957)*; conducted three Tours of Historic Sites (1991, 1992, 1993); purchased cabinets for filing historical books and documents; sponsored a survey of Historic Resources of Dawson County (based on a grant through Georgia DNR); placed plaques denoting National Register status for the Old Courthouse and Old Jail; solicited and maintained displays of items of historic interest; published a newsletter for the membership; and planned open meetings and programs of interest.

Rotary Club

The Dahlonega Rotary Club was very instrumental in bringing the Rotary Club to Dawson County.

On March 26th, 1992, the initial application for membership to Rotary International was applied for listing 31 members. On April 27th, 1992, the Rotary Club of Dawson County was officially approved by the Board of Directors of Rotary International. Charter night was held on May 28th, 1992 at the Amicalola Falls Lodge in Dawson County. The original charter officers were: Philip Hester, President; David Wallace, President-elect; and Lake Gibson, Secretary and Treasurer.

On July 1st, 1993 David Wallace was installed as the Club's second President, followed by Lake Gibson on July 1st, 1994 and Deborah Stowers on July 1st, 1995, followed by Ted Bearden, etc. The club received the Rotary International Presidential Citation award for outstanding service to the community during President Wallace's term and again during Mr. Gibson's term.

Dawson County Arts Council, Inc.

The mission statement of the Dawson County Arts Council, Inc. is to promote and cultivate an appreciation for the arts and the artist spirit in Dawson County and to give an opportunity to develop and encourage expression of individual creativity.

With new exhibits, performances or events each month, the Ralph and Ludy Bowen Center for the Arts is the county's creative hub for art shows, theater productions and children's events. With art exhibits featuring paintings, pottery, sculpture and unique creations from local, regional and national artists, the center is called "the hidden gem" of Dawson County.

Pat Floyd Collection

In recent years, the center has focused its mission on stimulating children's interests in the arts by offering an array of art classes, camps, and events.

Art center members and local enthusiasts say Dawson County is lucky to have such a wonderful entity.

Humane Society

Faye Bearden Bruce Collection

The Dawson County Humane Society was formed to provide shelter to homeless and abandoned animals and provide opportunities for either reuniting pets with homes or finding them new homes. Dr. Brandon "Doc" Mills along with several other animal lovers, started the organization.

The Dawson County Humane Society is composed of a Board of Directors, shelter director and staff, and a dedicated group of volunteers and community supporters.

Since the shelter opened in April 2008, over 3500 dogs and cats have been provided a safe haven as they awaited their "forever homes." The shelter was recently designated as a "no kill" shelter as there have been no euthanasia for space in three years. The goals of the society are to continue to find good homes for as many animals as possible and to reduce the number of homeless and abused animals through educating the public on the importance of spaying/neutering and the humane treatment of animals.

The Society offers many services to the community, such as micro chipping to all age appropriate pets, at a reasonable fee to the general public, low cost spay/neuter program for adults who receive assistance (Medicaid, WIC, food stamps, TANF, or active-duty military, etc.). Volunteers, through the education program go into classrooms to teach children about the importance of animal population control and the humane treatment of animals. Through that program they reach over 400 children a year.

Dawson County Animal Control is responsible for capturing stray or abandoned dogs and cats in the community and taking them to the shelter for assessment and care by a trained staff.

Volunteers spend weekends at various facilities in Dawson and Forsyth Counties offering a selection of animals for adoption.

The Dawson County Humane Society is located at 633 Martin Road. The shelter operates with a small paid staff and a host of dedicated volunteers.

Dawsonville Pharmacies

William (Bill) Burnham opened the first drug store in Dawsonville in the 1960s. Mr. Burnham graduated from the Atlanta Boys High School and went on to graduate from Young Harris College in 1932. He continued with his education and graduated from the Southern College of Pharmacy in 1944. In 1944, pharmacists prepared their own tinctures and infusions by hand from herbs – remedies that had been used for centuries. Today's pharmacists complete five to six years of university level training and have strenuous continuing education requirements.

Mr. Burnham was very active in the community. He served as Dawson County Coroner for a couple of years, president of the Lions Club, and president of the Forsyth County Pharmacy Association.

Mr. Burnham was a Registered Pharmacist for over fifty years. He had owned and operated a pharmacy in Atlanta from 1953 until 1963 before he came to Dawsonville and opened the first pharmacy in the county.

In 1977, Mr. Burnham sold the store to Mr. Phil Goodson.

Mr. Phil Goodson graduated from the University of Georgia with a Pharmacy degree in 1973. Mr. Goodson moved to Dawson County and reopened the Burnham Pharmacy after purchasing it in 1977. This drug store was located next door to the Country Cupboard on the west side of Dawsonville. Mr. Goodson set about remodeling the old gas station at his present location, a little closer to mid-town, to meet his needs. He moved into that building on August 31st, 1977.

Mr. Goodson is also an avid and knowledgeable Civil War historian and collector. He has many relics of the period. Some of his collection of the Civil War period are on loan to the Historical Society and are on display in the historic courthouse.

Dawsonville City Park

Dawsonville's first City Park on Mills Ford Road, was dedicated March 17th, 2007, in honor of Sheriff Glen Wallace. He was a dedicated and well-liked man. In an article from the *Dawson County Advertiser*, Mayor Joe Lane Cox told the story at the park dedication that if Sheriff Wallace didn't make a case, he didn't have a salary.

Mayor Cox said he remembers Sheriff Wallace fueling up his patrol car at the gas station on the square where Mr. Cox worked, and paying for his gas charges when his salary check came in.

What he drew sometimes was not enough to pay the bill. Mayor Cox said, "Now that's dedication."

Pat Floyd Collection

On the rock is found a sign in honor of Mr. Wallace
Pat Floyd Collection

Sheriff Glen Wallace served as Dawson County's Sheriff from January 1st, 1941, thru January 1st, 1961. He served consecutively longer than any other sheriff in the history of the county.

It is reported that he only drew his gun once in those twenty years that he served. Although, we didn't find the reason he had for drawing his gun that once, we do find it a remarkable story nonetheless

The park is a beautiful, quiet, place to play or meditate. It is

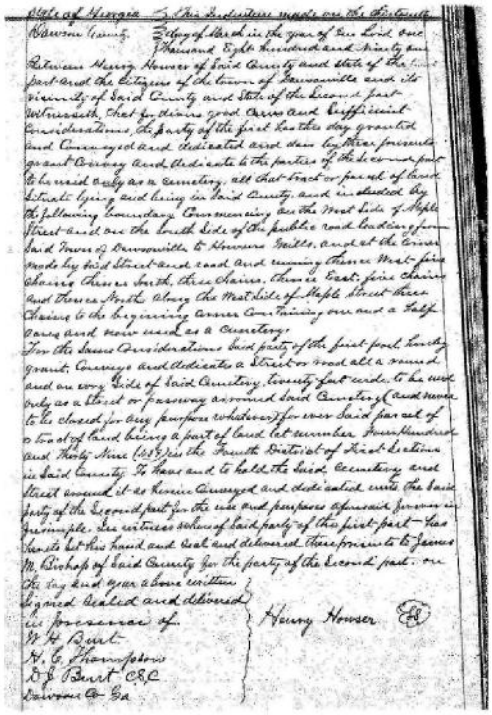
encompassed by crape myrtles and antique streetlights along the sidewalks. The area is inviting for visitors to walk around and visit loved ones at the adjoining Dawsonville Memorial Gardens, or spread a blanket in the grass for a picnic, use the pavilion, or watch the children play basketball or tennis.

Dawsonville City Cemetery

The first burial in the Dawsonville City Cemetery was that of Robert Howser, who died December 27th, 1861,of pneumonia in the Civil War at Chickamauga. His body was brought back to Dawsonville and was buried on the property of his brother, Henry Howser. Henry, about 30 years later, gave that land for the Dawsonville City Cemetery.

The land for the old Dawsonville Cemetery was deeded to Dawsonville by Henry Howser on March 12th, 1891.

Entrance to Dawsonville City Cemetery
Pat Floyd Collection



State of Georgia } This Indenture made on the Thirteenth
Dawson County } day of March in the year of our Lord One
Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety one
Between Henry Howser of said County and State of the first
part and the Citizens of the town of Dawsonville and its
vicinity of said County and State of the second part
Witnesseth, That for diverse good causes and sufficient
considerations, the party of the first part the day granted
and conveyed and dedicated and does by these presents
grant convey and dedicate to the parties of the second part
to be used only as a cemetery, all that tract or parcel of land
situate lying and being in said County and bounded by
the following boundary Commencing on the West side of Maple
Street and on the South side of the public road leading from
said Town of Dawsonville to Hamers Mills, and at the corner
made by said Street and road and running thence West four
chains thence South three chains, thence East four chains
and thence North along the West side of Maple Street three
chains to the beginning corner containing one and a half
acres and now used as a Cemetery
For the same Considerations said party of the first part hath
granted, conveyed and dedicated a Street or road all around
and on every side of said Cemetery, twenty feet wide to be used
only as a street or passway around said Cemetery and never
to be closed for any purpose whatever for ever said parcel of
land being a part of land lot number Four Hundred
and Thirty Nine (439) in the Fourth District of First Section
in said County To have and to hold the said Cemetery and
Street around it as herein granted and dedicated unto the said
party of the Second part for the use and purposes aforesaid forever in
fee simple. In witness whereof said party of the first part has
hereto set his hand and seal and delivered these presents to James
M. Bishop of said County for the party of the second part on
the day and year above written
Signed Sealed and delivered
in presence of
W. H. Burt
H. C. Thompson
D. J. Burt C.S.C.
Dawson Co. Ga

Henry Howser (SS)

Copy of Deed from Deed Book H page 565
Dawson County Courthouse

The cemetery is bordered by a rock wall and wrought iron fence. There are beautiful and unique headstones dating from the Civil War era to the present.

Dawsonville Beautification Plan

The City of Dawsonville known for its famous Nascar Drivers and infamous moonshiners has seen significant population growth since the U. S. Census of 1970 which listed the population of Dawsonville as 288. The 2010 U.S. census showed the city's population to be 2,536.

Surrounded by some of the state's most outstanding natural resources, Dawsonville has developed from an agrarian based economy to a diversified economic base with a mix of retail, health and social services, and other services that serve the community well.

In 2012, Mayor Grogan held a meeting to appoint a steering committee to seek information from the public on their vision of what they would like Dawsonville to look like in the future. The committee published a survey in the newspaper asking for input from the public.

They asked questions such as:

- What makes downtown Dawsonville unique?
- Why do you come to downtown Dawsonville?
- What is working well in Dawsonville? Not working well?
- What would bring more people downtown?
- In 10 years, what would you like Dawsonville to look like?

When the survey results from the public were analyzed, Mayor Grogan was in touch with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia to do a comprehensive report using the results of public opinion to create a master plan.

The Master Plan was completed in May, 2013. The plan contained key issues that must be addressed to move the downtown toward the community's vision of the future, and a Master Plan Work Goal for implementing the plan.

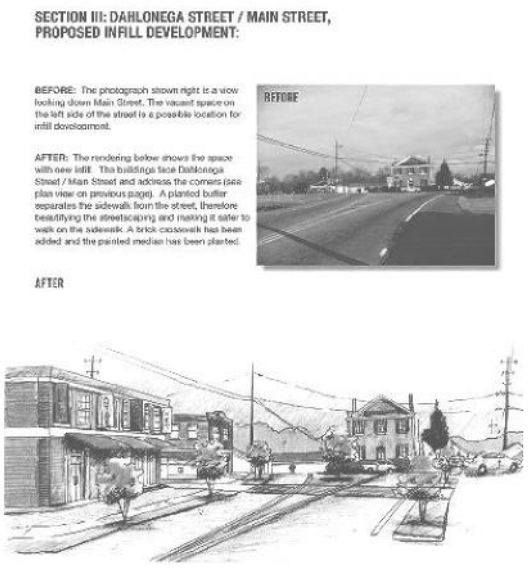
Proposed Solutions:

- Downtown needs more public green space, trees, and other public amenities, such as seating.
- Downtown needs more retail, restaurants, and activities.
- Downtown needs better connectivity to link places like City Hall, the arts center, the schools, and the courthouse.
- The buildings could look nicer.
- Downtown is not walkable.
- The traffic is intimidating, particularly the truck traffic.

The work plan goals have already begun with more sidewalks, more crosswalks, a round-about for the old historic courthouse, and a yield sign and turn lane at the intersection of Highways 9 and 53.

The following people have served as Mayor of Dawsonville, the county seat, and the only incorporated city in Dawson County: T. J. Hickman, R. N. McClure, R. C. Bearden, A. J. Gilreath, G. E. Taylor, Dr. H. Palmour, W. L. Martin, Ralph J. Grogan, G. B. Hulsey, Herbert W. Robinson, Arnold E. Hamner, R. H. Kelley, Dr. Marcus L. Howard, Carlton W. Gilleland, Marion S. Denard, Billy Wallace, Ralph Maddox, Clay Summerour, L. W. Patterson, Joe Atkins, G. L. "Pete" Gilleland, Yancey Savage, Howard Roper, Clinton Chester, Mary Smith, Linda Townley, Jimmy Moore, Joe Lane Cox and James Grogan.

In 2014, the county and city have merged the old with the new, the rural with the urban, and are moving toward a bright future.


SECTION III: DAHLONEGA STREET / MAIN STREET,
PROPOSED INFILL DEVELOPMENT:
BEFORE: The photograph shown right is a view looking down Main Street. The vacant space on the left side of the street is a possible location for infill development.
AFTER: The rendering below shows the space with new infill. The buildings face Dahlonega Street / Main Street and address the corners (see plan view on previous page). A planted buffer separates the sidewalk from the street, therefore beautifying the streetscaping and making it safer to walk on the sidewalk. A brick crosswalk has been added and the painted median has been planted.
BEFORE
AFTER

One of the many pages of the Downtown Master Plan by The Carl Vinson Institute of Government

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